FBIS DAILY REPORT

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LATIN AMERICAN OIL PRODUCERS DISCUSS NEW U.S. TAXES

PA280415 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Report by Martin Pacheco]

[Text] All the Latin American and Caribbean petroleum exporting countries today ratified their decision to carry out joint policies to cope with any new taxes on imported petroleum that the U.S. Congress might decide to impose.

This unyielding determination was voiced by the energy ministers of Mexico, Ecuador, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, and Venezuela during a meeting they held with Venezuelan President Dr Jaime Lusinchi at Miraflores Palace. The high-ranking petroleum officials and President Lusinchi reviewed the international market situation and the future perspective in the light of the latest decisions adopted by OPEC. The critical situation of Ecuador following the devastating earthquake that affected its petroleum exports was also widely discussed. Ecuadoran Minister Javier Espinosa Teran announced that the oil pipelines are being quickly repaired in his country, adding that the recovery of the international market is a positive sign.

Colombian Minister Guillermo Perry said that his country currently shares the Latin American concern about the contractions of the international market. Kelvin Ramnath, oil minister from Trinidad and Tobago, said that his country firmly and definitely condemns the taxes that the United States has imposed on imported oil.

(Jose Alcaida), the Mexican deputy minister, said that the most important thing is to establish a solid stand to prevent the United States from carrying out the new threats against our main export product. Dr Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, the Venezuelan energy and mines minister, announced that in general terms, the possibility of new U.S. taxes on imported oil is a potential problem.

At any rate, the fact that there is a Latin American document, let us say, a clear stand against the possibility of new U.S. taxes does not mean that Latin America is not alert on other issues, and therefore right now, Latin America is making diplomatic and direct contacts to seek joint strategies in other areas that will be decisive should the U.S. Congress decide to approve new import taxes.

OPEC Stance Supported

PA282004 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2314 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Caracas, 27 Mar (DPA) -- The decision adopted by OPEC concerning a voluntary reduction of production for petroleum prices to recover has had "positive" effects, the ministers from the Latin American oil-exporting countries said today after concluding a 2-day meeting in Caracas.

In a communique read by Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, the (Venezuelan) energy and mines minister, the Informal Group of Latin American and Caribbean Oil Exporting Countries (Giplacep) also emphasizes the "very favorable" attitude displayed by the exporting countries -- that are not members of the organization -- in cooperating to achieve the stability of the world oil market.

The energy ministers of Ecuador, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela, in addition to Guillermo Perry -- the Colombian minister (of the same branch) who joined the group as an observer -- recommend continuing with this policy "to propitiate a level of prices that is reasonably fair and that will take into consideration the interests of both the producing countries and consuming countries." They also voice their support for a dialogue among OPEC, the non-OPEC countries, and the consuming nations, and urge these countries to promote the dialogue.

[Words indistinct] likewise agreed to intensify periodic consultation at a technical level and an exchange of information on the situation of the international world market.

During the 2-day meeting, Ecuadoran Minister Javier Espinosa Teran explained -- in his capacity as temporary secretary of Giplacep -- the actions carried out by the organization over the last 2 years, clearly emphasizing the solidarity and support given to Ecuador following the devastating earthquake that destroyed early a large part of the oil installations in March.

He also pointed out the enforcement of a program to control the smuggling of hydrocarbons across the border that Venezuela and Ecuador signed in March 1985, and the technical assistance in information technology rendered by Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc (PDVSA) to Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation (CEPE), and the progress made in the industrial exchange of information between Pemex (Mexico) and PDVSA according to a program signed in May 1934. Likewise, he emphasized the cooperation and mutual assistance program in the event of petroleum accidents signed by Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago in October 1986.

Another important recent achievement is the agreement signed between Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (Ecopetrol) and CEPE that calls for exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the Colombian-Ecuadoran border area. Drilling will begin in August.

The final communique of the meeting also recognizes the cooperation established between the state enterprises of Colombia and Venezuela on technical matters and environmental protection.

The ministers "attentively" studied the proposals sent to the U.S. Congress concerning a proposed tax on imported petroleum, pointing out that the approval of such a measure "would have very negative effects for the five countries and would affect the international oil market."

To this effect, they noted "with satisfaction" the recent statements made the U.S. Administration that clearly reject any tax on imported petroleum and agreed "to closely follow" the developments.

In conclusion, they picked Bogota as the site for the forthcoming 6th meeting and Hernandez Grisanti as temporary secretary.

FOREIGN VESSELS SIGHTED NEAR EXCLUSION ZONE

PY272134 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2105 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Mar (TELAM) -- It has been officially reported that 23 foreign fishing vessels have been sighted near the eastern boundary of the economic exclusion zone. Three of these vessels were photographed. The appropriate documentation has been drafted and submitted to the Foreign Ministry so it can initiate diplomatic action.

In this respect, the Navy Staff today released a communique that states the following:

The Navy Staff reports that as a result of the patrol flights to control maritime navigation ordered by the Naval Operations Command, 23 foreign vessels were sighted today near the eastern boundary of the economic exclusion zone.

Within this zone, it adds, three vessels were identified and photographed. The appropriate documentation has been drafted and submitted to the Foreign Ministry so it can initiate diplomatic actions.

These flights, the communique concludes, allow the rapid collection of precise information on activities taking place at sea. This information is centralized and immediately sent to patrol vessels, which, if there are any violations of current legislation, board and inspect the vessels allegedly committing such violations. If any irregularities are observed they proceed to seize the vessel.

REPERCUSSIONS OF ALDERETE APPOINTMENT VIEWED

PY282002 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES in English 28 Mar 87 pp 1, 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Carlos Alderete, the Peronist secretary-general of the Light and Power labour union, was yesterday officially appointed labour minister by President Raul Alfonsin in what was seen as a shrewd move by the Radical government to win the support of the powerful General Labour Confederation (CGT) in an effort to stabilize the economy.

The 48-year-old newly appointed minister still has to win the approval of sceptical leaders of the labour movement, but was given tacit support by CGT Secretary-General Saul Ubaldini, and unrestricted backing by his own and other unions enrolled in the so-called group of 15 mostly Orthodox Peronists within the CGT.

The CGT executive committee is due to meet on Monday to discuss the appointment and decide on its stance in the issue.

Alderete, who returned yesterday from Rome where he was received in audience by Pope John Paul II, is scheduled to be sworn in on Tuesday in a ceremony at Government House to replace outgoing Labour Minister Hugo Barrionuevo who resigned earlier this week.

The announcement of Alderete's appointment came after a 20-minute closed-door meeting he held with Alfonin at the presidential residence in Olivos shortly after he arrived in Buenos Aires.

"Gentlemen, let me introduce the new labour minister to you," Alfonsin said following the meeting, the government officials and labour leaders waiting outside. The announcement, which was followed by a barbecue at the residence, was received by a prolonged round of applause from all those present.

Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille and Public Works and Services Ministers Pedro Trucco as well as Lower House majority leader Cesar Jaroslavsky and presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez were among those present, and participated in the barbecue.

During the barbecue, Alfonsin toasted the labour movement and the new minister saying: "I want to toast democracy which cannot be consolidated without the participation of organized labour, social justice, peace in our country, the democracy of Argentines, the personal welfare of all you here and the new labour minister."

After the barbecue Alderete went straight from the presidential residence to the CGT headquarters and then to his own union to notify them of his appointment.

Later Lopez said the appointment of Alderete to the Labour Ministry was "the expression of a search shared for a long time."

The presidential spokesman said the government "is convinced that to overcome the crisis the participation of, and the dialogue between, and sectors is indispensable."

He said the apointment of Alderete "expresses the depth of the reconcilation that has been achieved and the conviction existing in the government that this path has to be followed."

Asked if during the meeting between Alfonsin and Alderete the question of free wage bargaining talks -- which Alderete champions -- was broached, Lopez said "that is a subject that has preceded all that went on today."

He added that the matter of wage bargaining talks was within the framework of negotiations on labour legislation being carried out in Congress.

Alderete told newsmen he had received the offer of the ministry "with surprise and natural concern because of the times we are going through."

He said the labour movement was plunged into an institutional crisis because of the current labour legislation which he said was in force since the time of the former military regime.

Reliable sources said last night Alderete would address the nation after being sworn in on Tuesday and was expected to announce the virtual repeal of all labour legislation issued by the military governments.

The sources said the speech was authorized by Alfonsin during the meeting he held with his newly-appointed minister yesterday.

During the barbecue, the secretary-general of the bank clerks union Juan Zanola described the appointment of Alderete as a positive move, but said this did not imply an overall commitment by the labour forces.

"It should not be thought that the mere appointment of a unionist as minister will solve all the problems. What ae needed here are deeds and wer hope that the presence of Alderete in the ministry with the support of the labour movement will be beneficial for the workers as any acceptance of a post is an extreme decision by unionists in the search for solutions for the working man," Zanola said."

Labour sources said Alderete would meet over the weekend with Ubaldini to discuss the bases of a new relationship between the group of 15 and the CGT, to avoid a split in the CGT leadership.

Alderete was expected to explain the bases of a social pact reached by the group of 15 with the government and what would be his first decision after formally taking over the ministry.

The sources said Alderete would be accompanied by the main members of the group of 15 but Ubaldini, who would transmit the new minister's plans to the CGT executive on Monday, would attend the meeting alone.

BOMB DESTROYS CGT'S OFFICE IN BAHIA BLANCA

PY3C1226 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1147 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 30 Mar (TELAM) -- A bomb exploded early this morning at the CGT regional office, located on the corner of Mitre and Rodriguez Streets in this city. Police reported today that the explosion caused serious damage to the building and that it also damaged automobiles and shattered windows of nearby stores. No casualties have been reported.

The explosion destroyed 70 percent of the building's first floor, according to a police evaluation made at 0800 this morning. Initial investigations indicate the bomb exploded between 0240 and 0245.

SOURCES SAY 'SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS' IN DEBT TALKS

PY282009 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] (NA) -- Argentine negotiators, led by Treasury Secretary Mario Brodersohn, will reportedly soon come to an agreement with creditor banks that would grant Argentina two billion dollars to cope with interest payments on the foreign debt and seek a 4 percent growth during 1987. Reliable sources said there had been significant progress in debt negotiations and that possibly the agreement would be announced next week. The accord includes an interest rate of 7/8 or one percent over the LIBOR rate and covers aspects of debt capitalization. The latter has been hampered due to the significant gap between the official and black market dollars.

PERUVIAN CHIEF OF STAFF BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT

PY261630 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Early this morning at the Olivos Residence, President Raul Alfonsin received Admiral Juan Soria, Peruvian Navy commander in chief and chief of staff. Yesterday Soria began an official visit to Argentina. He will stay in the country until 31 March.

Adm Soria emphasized that during the meeting with Alfonsin, they discussed bilateral issues.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS APPOINTED -- The following new ambassadors have been appointed: Marcelino Chuburu Lastra to Ethiopia replacing Nicolas Adrian Sonschein; National Director of Protocol Juan Jose Arias Uriburu to Ireland; Alberto Dupont to Kenya; Hector Tejerina to Syria; and Argentine Ambassador to India Teresa Flouret as concurrent ambassador to Nepal. [Excerpts] [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 12 Mar 87 p 5 PY]

GOVERNMENT ANSWERS COB PETITION ON NATIONAL ISSUES

PY271750 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Excerpt] The government of Dr Victor Paz Estenssoro has responded to a petition made by the Bolivian Labor Confederation [COB] in a lengthy 11-point letter which includes point-by-point answers to each of the points raised by the COB.

The letter to the COB was delivered yesterday at about 2100 by Information Minister Herman Antelo who explained that the letter responds to each one of the points raised by COB.

In general, the 11-page letter to the COB states that the government gathers [from the COB petition] that the COB thinks the status of the Bolivian economy is good and without major problems.

The letter states that it is true that we are no longer affected by the chaos of hyperinflation and that by implementing the new economic policy, which the COB dogmatically criticizes, a solid groundwork has been laid to stabilize the national economy. This does not mean, however, that the country no longer needs a collective effort. The letter states that the COB and its advisers are well aware of the fact that a hyperinflationary phenomenon can only be halted by a drastic stabilization policy.

In the letter, the government tells the COB that no one denies the fact that general impoverishment has a bearing on the decline in the GDP because over the past 5 years our country has suffered a regression of development. Nevertheless, the letter adds that the COB petition is unrealistic.

The government's letter states that the COB petition is not close to the attitude the trade union leadership should observe considering the dramatic circumstances the country is experiencing.

The executive branch notes that it is impossible to increase wages, justifying this decision by stating that Decree No 21,060 consolidated all increases to the basic wage, seeking to standardize them. It is not possible to return to past insane rivalries.

The letter also deals with the reformed tax system, which has already been implemented; the drug trafficking issue, justifying the need to eradicate the nontraditional and excessive cocaleaf plantations; and the educational issue, stating that the government is making efforts to update legislation on this issue which requires modernization.

CHURCH MEDIATING GOVERNMENT, LABOR TALKS

PY281438 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The dialogue between COB and the government is again in recess after yesterday's meeting in the La Paz Archbishopric. The COB presented a counterproposal the government is studying. Planning Minister Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada made the following comments on the subject:

"[Sanchez] The COB presented a counterproposal, and we are going to show it to the president.

"[Reporter] What does the COB's counterproposal concern?

"[Sanchez] I do not know. When a resolution is made, I will tell you.

"[Reporter] Do you think the dialogue will continue? Is this just a recess?

"[Sanchez] We do not know, that is [words indistinct]."

For his part, COB leader Juan Lechin Oquendo has said that the list of subjects to be discussed with the ministers today at 1600 in the Archbishopric is ready.

"[Lechin, in progress] ...and we listened to Msgr Mestre, who made some very important comments and calmed our [words indistinct] spirits. We started by hearing the government's explanation of the problems we should discuss if a dialogue developed.

"The issues are the salary problem and the COMIBOL [Mining Corporation of Bolivia] problem with all its consequences and alternatives, but mainly the need to restore it. The government, that is, the minister has promised to suspend the dismissal of 3,500 workers.

"We will also discuss the peasant problem. We will discuss the taxation problem for the peasants, the small businessmen, and the (?inhabitants of Beni) with the economy minister. We will express our opinions on the taxation system, which we consider very unfair."

Afterward, Msgr Alejandro Mestre, the La Paz coadjuster bishop, said that it was hard to reach an initial agreement between the COB and the government. However, he said he expects an agreement soon.

[Mestre] They were very hard discussions because of the strike and because we had to continue the dialogue. The church has insisted that the dialogue not be suspended. If the dialogue stops, there may be terrible consequences. Therefore, whatever happens, the dialogue must continue.

"We understand that the COB is having difficulties with its base organizations, according to the strike organizers. However, the strike organizers can influence the situation.

"The ministers have made great efforts to listen to the COB's six or seven demands. They have determined the subjects they will discuss. These subjects are salaries, peasants, the taxation system, etc."

In conclusion, it was decided that the COB and the government authorities will meet again today at 1600 under the mediation of the Catholic Church. The government and the COB will also continue to hold internal consultations today.

FORMER MINISTER ACCUSED OF DRUG TRAFFICKING

PY261653 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0227 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] La Paz, 25 Mar (EFE) -- Humberto Gil Suarez, who is allegedly involved in drug trafficking, has accused former Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy of being involved in drug trafficking and in the killing of three members of a Spanish-Bolivian scientific expedition.

Gil Suarez is one of the five Bolivians who were accused by a congressional investigative commission of being involved in the triple killing in Huanchaca. Nevertheless, Gil Suarez was released by Santa Cruz Judge Edgar Rueda Pena, a ruling which was overruled by the Supreme Court of Justice for incurring in the crime of malfeasance in office.

Scientist Noel Kempff Mercado and two of his companions, all members of the Bolivian-Spanish scientific expedition, were killed on 5 September 1986 in Huanchaca.

In a paid advertisement published today by Bolivian newspapers, Gil Suarez claims that he is innocent and demands "justice and the punishment of the true perpetrators."

Gil Suarez adds that he is willing to turn himself in to the courts and cooperate with them to clarify the killing. However, he demands that guarantees be given to protect his life. Gil Suarez added: "I have remained in hiding since I was released, because I found out about the relentless desire of some police officers (possibly by orders from above) to kill "me and my familiy.

Humberto Gil Suarez asked the judge, who has reopened the criminal case against him, to call Fernando Barthelemy, the former interior minister and currently a deputy, in the case to respond to public accusations which involve Barthelemy in drug trafficking.

Barthelemy Denies Charges

PY271645 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Deputy Fernando Barthelemy has said that a few hours before leaving the post of interior minister, he was informed about the arrival in the country of solid evidence concerning the individuals who perpetrated the triple murder in Huanchaca.

Barthelemy said that a special commission, made up of Bolivian policemen who went to the neighboring Republic of Brazil, arrived in Bolivia on the eve of the cabinet crisis that led to his departure from the Council of Ministers.

Barthelemy stated that he emphatically rejects the accusations made by people whom he called drug trafficking peons. He said that the accusations were made by individuals who were prosecuted by the interior ministry for being involved in drug trafficking.

Barthelemy stated that during his tenure as interior minister, he faithfully offered his services to unravel the violent actions which led to the triple murder in Huanchaca and the killing of Santa Cruz lawmaker Edmundo Salazar Terceros.

[Begin Barthelemy recording] We effectively supported, with funds, a Bolivian police commission which conducted the investigations.

Unfortunately, I left the post of interior minister precisely as these gentlemen were presenting the evidence that they were able to gather in their investigations in Brazil, where there are several individuals being held by Brazilian authorities. I understand that these individuals have made statements that are completely legal, fully explaining the Huanchaca case. Even those who pulled the trigger in the triple murder case are identified. Unfortunately, I left my post at that time. If I would have remained as interior minister, this report would probably have been completed by now because I do not thinx that so much time is needed to draw up a report when all the necessary evidence and documents are at hand. [end recording]

The former interior minister then said that the delay in the investigations took place when the national Congress adopted investigative measures on its own, measures for which the Congressmen were not prepared. This step delayed the investigations that were being conducted separately by the national police, who did not want their position to be interpreted as interference with the legislative actions, Barthelemy commented.

In conclusion, Barthelemy stated that he was aware of the fact that the police commission that went to Brazil had drawn up a comprehensive report on the Huanchaca case.

In this regard, the final word will be that of the Interior Ministry and the police authorities, Barthelemy concluded.

ARMED FORCES CHIEF ON POLITICAL SITUATION

PY261622 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] There is no reason for the Bolivian Armed Forces to become involved in the current political situation because this is a problem which must be directly resolved by the executive branch. This comment was made by Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Gonzalo Saavedra who spoke to the press.

Gen Saavedra said that the Armed Forces are viewing the current social and laboral conflict with concern but that everything is in the hands of the national government.

Here is what Gen Saavedra said:

[Begin recording] We do not have to prepare for anything at all. The president of the Republic is the only one who gives instructions. [end recording]

Asked about the Bolivian-U.S. military exercises, Gen Saavedra said that the legislative branch is delaying the authorization of these exercises in Bolivia and that it would be advisable to explain this situation. Gen Saavedra added that these exercises are necessary for the Bolivian Armed Forces and that they are justified from the viewpoint of the continuous training required by Bolivian officers.

POLICE ARREST TRAFFICKERS, SEIZE COCAINE

PY241424 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] The Bolivian police have dealt a heavy blow to drug trafficking, arresting five major traffickers in Santa Cruz. The National Antinarcotics Directorate reported that the detainees are Wenceslao Suarez Velarde, Demetrio Perez Sanchez, Hermes Suarez Velarde, Pedro Flores Gimenez, and Luis Guillermo Saenz Mendez. Last Sunday they were found in possession of 16.9 kg of cocaine sulphate base and a large quantity of chemicals in Luis Guillermo Saenz Mendez' house, located in Conabi district in Santa Cruz.

National Antinarcotics Directorate officials stated that the criminal records of the detainees, who reportedly are involved in drug trafficking, are being investigated. During the raid conducted by the Santa Cruz antinarcotics police, several vehicles were also seized.

DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE ENDS IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

PY271712 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 0230 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] The Democratic Alliance in the Constituent Assembly has ended. However, the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] and the PFL [Liberal Front Party] will continue united to support the government in Congress. The result of this crisis has put the partners of the Democratic Alliance on different sides of the Constituent Assembly executive board.

Now that the composition of the executive board has been defined, the PMDB and the PFL will follow the proposal that was made by Senator Mario Covas and resulted in his election as the PMDB leader at the Constituent Assembly. The proposal is that in Congress, the PMDB an the PFL will fully support the Sarney administration; at the Constituent Assembly, however, each one is on its own.

[Begin relay from Congress] [Cunha] The PMDB and the PFL jointly forged the New Republic. However, they have failed to remain united over the election of the Constitutent Assembly executive board. With the PFL out, the PMDB has allied itself with the minority parties, and, at tonight's meeting, 311 members of the Constituent Assembly voted to elect the new executive board.

In keeping with the agreement, the government and the opposition have swapped positions.

Two opposition parties, the PDS [Social Democratic Party], with Deputy Jorge Arbage as second vice president, and the PDT [Democratic Workers Party], with Senator Maia as second secretary, have occupied the vacancy left by the PFL. The PFL has been excluded from the Constituent Assembly executive board. How will this affect the work of the Constituent Assembly?

[Senator Mario Covas] I would say that repercussions will be very small. Strictly speaking, the executive board does not have any bearing on the work itself except for the fact that it manages it.

[Cunha] What will be the repercussions on the Democratic Alliance?

[Covas] I do not think they will be significant. This is just an episode. It involves the election of the Constituent Assembly executive board, which, strictly speaking, does not affect the Democratic Alliance.

[Cunha] While the Constituent Assembly was voting, the PFL was meeting in a separate room at the Chamber of Deputies. Criticism was made against the PMDB. Nevertheless, this is not why the PFL will leave the government.

[PFL Deputy Jose Lourenco] The problem in the Constituent Assembly is a problem of the Democratic Alliance. The Democratic Alliance, operating in Congress, the Chamber of Deputies, and the Senate, will support the government. The Constituent Assembly is a different issue.

[PFL Senator Carlos Chairelli] Concerning the Constituent Assembly, each party is on its own. It could be said that if we were identical to the PMDB we would not be two different parties. [end relay]

PFL To Retaliate

PY281220 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] A group of PFL deputies is willing to retaliate against the PMDB.

Deputy Alcemir Guerra, PFL-Parana, said this is the best response that can be given to the PMDB, which excluded the PFL from the national Constituent Assembly executive board. He said that the Democratic Alliance [AD] last week lost much of its power and that it is inconvenient to maintain it in the National Constitutent Assembly.

Deputy Mauricio Campos, acting PFL director, said the AD is ending, and its existence at the national level can only be secured by President Sarney. He said that if the president does not act quickly, the political pact through which the New Republic was born will end, because the split in the Constituent Assembly executive board has not been overcome.

Cabinet Shuffle 'Imminent'

PY300232 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Mar 87 p A4

[Excerpt] The deteriorating crisis between the PMDB and the PFL, which was prompted by the dispute over posts in the Constituent Assembly, is beginning to make a definite impact on the government: It is hindering the Cabinet reshuffle, which, according to Planalto Palace's intitial plan, should have begun early April. The atmosphere of friction between the two parties has compelled President Sarney to suspend consultations, which, according to FOLHA sources, he intended to intensify this coming week.

The caution with which Sarney is handling the Cabinet reshuffle reflects the delicate situation the president is facing: In theory his government is supported by the two parties that form the AD and, in practice he runs the risk of not having the support of either. However, the small political constituency of the current ministers, in addition to the president's dissatisfaction with the results of the administration of most of the ministers, leave no doubts about the imminent change of Cabinet. [passage omitted]

PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT SOARES BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT

Meets With Congress' Leaders

PY260215 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Portuguese President Mario Soares spent most of today meeting with congressional leaders. First to be received were PMDB leaders. Soares met for nearly half-an-hour with Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, Senator Mario Covas, Chamber of Deputies PMDB leader Luis Henrique, Deputy Carlos Sant'Anna, leader of the government in Congress, and Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

The talks centered on two topics: the commercial prospects for Brazil now that Portugal has joined the EEC and a comparison of the Brazilian and Portuguese system of government, which is neither presidentialist nor parliamentarian but a mixture of both.

He later met with PFL Deputy Jose Lourenco and Senator Carlos Chiarelli with whom he discussed the foreign debt. In this respect, Deputy Jose Jourenco, at the end of the meeting said:

[Begin recording] President Mario Soares said the treatment given to Brazil regarding the foreign debt can in no way be the same as that given to other countries. He said he will use all his influence and political clout, which is considerable, with all European governments and the U.S. Government, and all his personal influence with all European presidents and the U.S. President to advocate that Brazil receive special treatment, considering its political importance and in accordance with its role in Latin America and the world. [end recording]

Mario Soares also met with leaders of the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], the PDS, and PT [Workers Party]. In the afternoon he had lunch with Federal District Governor Jose Aparecido. He then returned to the Jaburu Palace, where he met with the leaders of the smaller parties in the Constituent Assembly. Mario Soares has thus covered the Brazilian political spectrum and learned the positions of the political parties toward the new constitution that is being drafted.

BANK OF BRAZIL PROPOSES END TO EMPLOYEE STRIKE

PY270244 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Bank of Brazil officials, after a meeting with Finance Minister Dilson Funaro, early tonight presented an official proposal for salary negotiations with bank employees. Following a suggestion by Labor Ministry specialists, the Bank of Brazil proposed an immediate 25-percent salary adjustment and the creation of a commission to discuss, within a 2-month period, a mechanism for raising employee salaries to the levels of Central Bank employees. Bank employees throughout the country are meeting to discuss the government proposal at this moment. Meanwhile, the Sao Paulo stock market remained closed for the 2d day due to the strike. [passage omitted]

GOVERNMENT NOT PLANNING MORE PRICE FREEZES

PY280116 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Planning Minister Anibal Teixeira has said that the government is no longer thinking of freezing prices.

[Begin Teixeira recording] [Words indistinct] Inflation is already being slowed down by the market system. Meat prices are lower. The prices of most products are falling. This can really help to improve the situation without the need of any further government intervention in the market. [end recording]

BRIEFS

AIDS CASES REPORTED -- Brasilia, 7 Mar (EFE) -- The Health Ministry has reported in Brasilia that 251 new AIDS cases have been officially recorded in Brazil in February. According to government records, the overall number of people with AIDS is now 1,263, although the WHO claims that there are more than 120,000 AIDS patients in Brazil. [Summary] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1803 GMT 7 Mar 87 PY]

INTERIOR MINISTER DESCRIBES ACTIVITIES 'NORMAL'

PY260116 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Interior Minister Ricardo Garcia has stated that despite efforts by some political sectors to cause problems throughout the country, activities today were normal and there were no problems. He added that this could be observed by Chilean citizens. [recorded passage indistinct]

Regarding Clodomiro Almeyda's clandestine entrance to the country, Garcia said that the government has been trying to solve the exile issue, but because Almeyda has violated the law by entering the country clandestinely, the government has decided to banish him.

The interior minister made this comment at the Providencia community hall following an exhibit entitled Religious Art in the Kingdom of Chile. The exhibit is being held in view of the Holy Father's upcoming visit.

Police Issue Report

PY262102 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Police have reported that two persons sustained bullet wounds and some 50 people were detained yesterday during demonstrations staged by the National Workers Command [CNT]

The two persons wounded are a 12-year-old boy, and a 45-year-old businessman who was watching television when a bullet passed through the wooden wall of his house.

The first incident took place at approximately 2200 yesterday in the Santa Julia neighborhood, Nunoa District, injuring Gerardo Jorquera Reyes. According to eyewitnesses, the boy was walking through the sector, where townspeople had built a bonfire, when a police vehicle arrived unexpectedly and police began shooting at the demonstrators. The minor took a bullet in the face and was rushed to Mackenna Hospital in Santiago.

Meanwhile, in the Pudahuel neighborhood, businessman Armando Aguero, 45, took a bullet in the head while watching television in the living room of his wooden house, located in the Herminda neighborhood, La Victoria district. Neighbors reported that at the same time Aguero was wounded, a military vehicle fired shots to disperse demonstrators who had built bonfires on Mapocho Street. Aguero was taken to the 3d Public Hospital, where he was treated. Doctors reported that he was hit by a fragment that damaged his brain.

Police sources reported this morning that all detainees were set free following confirmation of their residences and after they had been summoned to appear before the local police judgeship.

Demonstrators Released

PY282055 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1504 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Santiago, 28 Mar (EFE) -- It was learned here today that the 34 [number as received] people who were arrested on Friday in Santiago during the demonstrations staged by teachers and relatives of political prisoners on hunger strike, have been released.

The most serious incidents took place at the door of the Justice Ministry, where some 20 women, relatives of the political prisoners who today complete their 33d day of a hunger strike, chained themselves [to a fence].

Other confrontations also occurred at the end of a ceremony staged by the Chilean teachers association. The ceremony was an act of solidarity for the more than 8,000 teachers who have been laid off.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON UN ADVISER VOLIO'S VISIT

Supreme Court Refuses Meeting

PY260119 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpt] The members of the Supreme Court today decided not to meet with UN Adviser Fernando Volio in a special plenary session. The Supreme Court members, in a 12-to-2 vote, decided not to meet with Volio because he made a false statement. They added that by stating that the Chilean courts are not independent, Volio made an incorrect and unfair statement. [passage omitted]

Condemns Almeyda Banishment

PY252218 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpts] UN Adviser Fernando Volio this morning said that he has yet to receive an answer to his telephone call placed last night on behalf of former Chilean foreign minister Coldomiro Almeyda. On this, Volio said that he condemns the government's decision to banish Almeyda. [passage omitted]

Volio made this comment after holding a 45-minute meeting with Carlos Cerda, judge of the Second Santiago Appellate Court. He denied that he promised to visit Clodomiro Almeyda at his banishment location, as reported by a lawyer of the Chilean human rights commission. [passage omitted]

Regarding his meeting with Judge Carlos Cerda, Volio said that they discussed the court case involving the disappearance of (?10) persons. The UN adviser also praised the judge's work, and he added that the cases involving the disappearance of detainees are still on his agenda. He said that these cases will be on his agenda until the truth is made known to their relatives and to the public. [passage omitted]

At this time, Volio is meeting with Military Prosecutor Fernando Torres Silva, who is investigating the discovery of arms caches and the attack on the president's motorcade. [passage omitted]

Meets With Fasting Prisoners

PY270217 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2200 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Fernando Volio, the UN special observer investigating human rights violations in Chile, this afternoon met with gendarmerie officials, to whom he gave some of the petitions of the political prisoners who are on a hunger strike.

Volio explained that three main points have been proposed, and the results of his action can be termed positive.

[Begin recording] [Fernando Volio] I went to the Gendarmerie, breaking my schedule because of the urgency of this visit. I went to transmit the petitions, except for one, of the 14 hunger strikers I visited last night. I held a 3-hour meeting with the hunger strikers. It was a rather interesting visit in all aspects, filled with emotion, of course. At the end of the meeting I promised to transmit these petitions...

[Reporter, interrupting] What petitions, Mr Volio?

[Volio] I cannot reveal them now.

[Reporter] And how did you find the prisoners?

[Volio] Relatively well. We have to be optimistic. [end recording]

The UN official declined to give further details, and said only that he will hold a final meeting with other officials on behalf of the hunger strikers.

Volio made these remarks after visiting this afternoon the central building of the Electoral Registration Board, where he met with the director of the Board. He said that he will again meet with the fasting political prisoners at an unspecified time to tell them the results of his negotiations.

Fernando Volio has expressed regret about the Supreme Court decision not to meet with him.

[Begin Volio recording] I regret the Supreme Court decision. It does not facilitate my work. But I respect the decision for being a sovereign one. I wanted to talk with them about many important matters related to the Chilean justice. I had requested this meeting to reiterate the request I submitted last year. Fortunately, I had an opportunity yesterday to meet with Supreme Court President Rafael Retamal, who allowed me to mention important points of the Chilean justice. [end recording]

Regarding the hunger strike of political prisoners, it has been reported that a fast will begin at 2100 tonight at the Human Rights Commission building in support of the prisoners' demands. The fast, organized by the Coordinating Board of Political Prisoners, will end at noon Friday.

BRIEFS

NEW ANTARCTIC AIR BASES -- Punta Arenas -- General Rene Alzerreca, 4th Air Brigade commander, has said in a press conference that Chilean penetration toward the South Pole will continue, and that new places to establish bases are being sought. He added that perhaps, Chile will establish a base near the Ellworth hills, where C-130 planes with wheels will operate as they do in McMurdo, at the South Pole. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 13 Mar 87 p C5 PY]

FOREIGN RESERVES FALL -- The Central Bank has reported that the Chilean international reserves fell $60 million during January 1987. The reserves in January 1987 were $1,718,800,000, and they were $1,778,300,000 in December 1986. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 10 Mar 87 p B1 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTER ON CUBA VOTE, HABIB VISIT

PA280205 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Mar 87

[By Ricardo Canon]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes affirmed today that at no time have U.S.-Colombian relations deteriorated.

[Begin recording] [Londono] Many factors have come together at this time, not only in Colombia, but in all of Latin America. Relations between Colombia and the United States are cordial, respectful, and of course, based on an obvious and very clear support of the principle of nonintervention.

[Reporter] How do you feel about Ms Kirkpatrick's statements on the voting in Geneva, about the type of pressure that Fidel Castro reportedly exerted on certain countries and especially on Colombia [word indistinct].

[Londono] Unfortunately, there are still people who believe that the sovereign decisions of Latin American states are made under pressure. That is an incorrect belief. [end recording]

Concerning the visit of Philip Habib, President Reagan's special envoy to Central America, the foreign minister commented on part of the diplomat's schedule and the matters to be discussed with President Barco.

[Begin Londono recording] The president, U.S. Ambassador Mr Habib, and I will discuss certain topics concerning the Central American situation, and the latest developments in the region will be analyzed. [end recording]

VISITING SOVIET DELEGATION DISCUSSES ARMS CONTROL

PA281842 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Mar 87 p 11a

[Text] The USSR has insisted that political dialogue between the superpowers must be held to save mankind from a catastrophe and "to build a nonviolent, nonnuclear world."

At the same time, it hopes that its proposals to the United States concerning nuclear disarmament will become a reality "to eliminate the sources of enmity and war among the countries of the world."

Grant M. Voskanyan, vice chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, affirmed that at this time the most significant international problems are the struggle for peace and the ban of nuclear armaments.

"The Soviet Government works intensively for peace, and we are insisting on this with the United States so that our disarmament proposals become a reality," said the Soviet official.

Voskanyan heads a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation which arrived yesterday in Bogota for a 5-day visit, at the invitation of the Colombian Congress.

Other members of the delegation are Agadzhan G. Babayev, Oleg I. Lobov, Galina S. Robakova, Liudmila A. Postnikova, secretary, Aleksandr A. Zimakov, adviser, and Eugenio M. Boykov, interpreter.

During their stay in Colombia, the Soviet delegates will meet with President Virgilio Barco and Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes. They will also hold conversations with the leaderships of the Senate and Chamber, reporters, and other community representatives.

The delegation will visit the El Cerrojon project and hold meetings with management representatives.

In his first statements the head of the Soviet delegation said: "Political dialogue is extremely important at this time, taking into account the ever-increasing role played by parliamentarians in the struggle to save the human race from a catastrophe, to eradicate sources of hatred and wars, and to build a nonnuclear, nonviolent world."

He emphasized that the USSR builds its relations with Colombia and other countries on the basis of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and noninterference in domestic affairs. It favors development of balanced and mutually advantageous cooperation.

After pointing out that the Soviets greatly respect and sympathize with the Colombian people, Voskanyan affirmed that the USSR wants peace in Central America, and praised the mediation of the Contadora Group in the region.

The Soviet official warned that "we will be forced to reinitiate our nuclear tests, but if we detect goodwill on the part of the United States they will be suspended. [no closing quotation mark as published] He added that "We have done all we can to arrive at disarmament agreements but the United States has the last word. We hope that common sense will prevail in the end.

More on Visit

PA291939 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0107 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Bogota, 27 Mar (EFE) -- Grant M. Voskanyan, vice chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, said today that the Nicaraguan problem should be resolved peacefully, with respect for that country's sovereignty.

Voskanyan, leader of a Soviet parlamentary delegation visiting Colombia, told EFE today that Nicaragua's case should be resolved in accordance with the policy of nonintervention in internal affairs.

The Soviet politician, who met yesterday with President Virgilio Barco, said that they did not specifically discuss the U.S. intervention in Nicaragua through support for the "contras."

Nevertheless, he said that they discussed Central America in general, adding that the positions of the USSR and Contadora Group coincide on the subject. Colombia is a member of the Contadora Group along with Venezuela, Mexico, and Panama.

Asked about the political situation in Colombia, especially in regard to the actions of the leftist guerrillas and the ultra rightwing death squads, Voskanyan declined to comment because "that is an internal affair which the Colombians themselves should solve."

Voskanyan added that after the meeting with Barco "we have become aware of the fact that the international policies of the USSR and Colombia fully coincide."

Asked by EFE for more specific comments on these policies, Voskanyan cited as examples the prohibition of nuclear weapons, the limitations on weapons, and the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.

Voskanyan also expressed his support for President Barco's drug trafficking policy, saying that the struggle against drugs is a task that falls to all world countries.

The Soviet delegation, which has been in Colombia for a week, will travel to Lima, Peru on Saturday.

BRIEFS

DRUG SEIZURES, ARRESTS -- The Administrative Department of Security, DAS, and National Police have reported several raids and the seizure of the following: Approximately 9 kg of cocaine, 300 Trinidad and Tobago dollars, 2,227 counterfeit $100 bills, 2 National Police dress uniforms, 8 National Police uniforms and caps, several drums of gasoline, drug processing chemicals, scales, and other materials. The authorities also reported the arrest of nine drug traffickers, the destruction of a 5-hectare coca plantation, and the dismantling of two cocaine processing laboratories. [Summary] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 22 Mar 87 p 3 PA]

LOAN SUSPENDED -- The World Bank has suspended a credit of $77 million -- almost 18 billion pesos -- which it had granted Colombia for the rehabilitation of the National Railroads. Meanwhile, the national government yesterday tried to convince the bank that it should revoke the suspension. [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 25 Mar 87 p 1 PA]

GOVERNMENT DEFICIT REDUCTION -- The Colombian Government's overall deficit dropped from 58.441 billion pesos in 1985 to 3.624 billions in 1986, Lucila Reyes Duarte, treasurer general of the nation has reported. [Excerpt] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 24 Mar 87 p 10 PA]

REPERCUSSIONS OF 25 MARCH STRIKE DISCUSSED

Labor Minister Comments

PA261556 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Assessing Wednesday's strike -- called by the United Workers Front, FUT -- Labor and Human Resources Minister Jorge Ega Pena has stated that one cannot view it as a success or a failure because the stoppage hurt the country as a whole.

[Begin Ega Pena recording] I also want to express my rejection of the aggressive and provocative attitudes, as well as of the excesses that were committed. Students and minors were accused of causing very serious property damage in certain parts of the country, especially in Quito. I am particularly referring to the damage done to the main floor of the Labor Ministry where the office of the Association of Labor Ministry Employees is located.

I feel that if one wants to express rejection, repudiation, or discomformity one should seek legal channels rather than using minors to cause damage and have them face the serious consequences that stem from such actions. I think one must view today's strike based on the effects it had on the entire country and not on a single place or city. Cities such as Guayaquil, Babhoyo, and Quevedo were completely calm. There was a partial suspension of activities in other cities such as Quito, Cuenca, and Esmeraldas.

Regarding percentages, we can say that only 5 percent supported the stoppage in Quito. In Cuenca this figure ranged between 20 and 25 percent.

In any case, of the 900 businesses surveyed in Quito and Guayaquil, 86 stopped their activities completely: 52 in Quito and 34 in Quayaquil. There were partial stoppages at 32 enterprises, especially due to agreements reached with their workers, who will make up the time not worked over the weekend. The rest of the enterprises worked normally throughout the country.

I also want to state that some of the enterprises had to stop activities because of a lack of transportation. This is why there was a great mobilization of workers, especially in Quito, this morning. These workers went to their jobs using other means of transportation than they normally use. Some walked to work.

In any case, I feel the strike is over. The government described it correctly: an illegal and completely harmful act to the country's interests.

I appeal to the responsibility of the workers of my homeland and ask them to be aware of the situation we are going through. Instead of protesting and destablizing the democratic regime, they should be helping and joining forces to find the right solution to our problems. [end recording]

Ega Pena maintained that the government does not disregard the legitimate aspirations of the working class and other groups. On the contrary, it is willing to meet their needs as it has met them on many other occasions. The government will continue to meet these needs whenever the national economy allows it, he concluded.

'Acts of Violence' Decried

PA260344 [Editorial Report] Quito Radio Quito in Spanish at 2320 GMT on 25 March broadcasts live an approximately 25-minute news conference with Interior Minister Luis Robles Plaza, who summarizes developments connected with the 25 March strike called by the FUT.

Robles beings by saying that the strike was "to express the nonconformity of an important sector of Ecuadoreans regarding measures adopted by the government." He says that "elements who took advantage of this situation" distorted and disfigured the "possible good intention of this strike."

He says Quito and Esmeraldas were the scene of acts "of absolute vandalism" that, from the government's point of view, were nothing but "criminal, punishable actions." He reported that government and private buildings were attacked.

He lists specific acts of violence that occurred in Quito, Esmeraldas, and other cities.

He does not, however, always indicate the city where a particular event took place. He says an Army vehicle was set on fire with a Molotov cocktail at the 10 August Avenue intersection with Carrion Street. During this action three enlisted Army men reportedly suffered burns on their faces and bodies, and three people were arrested, he says. Robles reports that in Esmeraldas, the Central Bank building was attacked and a Molotov cocktail hurled against it. He reports that in Cuenca, a protest march was held, during which Molotov cocktails were hurled at vehicles and people, and that a police checkpoint was attacked by approximately 100 people, who destroyed the checkpoint's windows and doors and took property from it. He adds that a hotel as well as the International Bank and other buildings on Patria and Amazonas Avenue were attacked with Molotov cocktails. He says that the La Previsora bank officials on 10 August Avenue, at the intersection with Bogota Street, was attacked, also with Molotov cocktails.

Robles adds that the Ministry of Labor building was also attacked, particularly the headquarters of the workers association and the inspector's office. The Fire Deparment was called to this site and extinguished a fire there, he says. Attempts were made to start a fire at the M.L. Jaramillo Arteaga building on Colombia Avenue, where windows were shattered. In addition, a tourist bus was attacked.

"In overall and very concise terms, these are the most relevant matters with regard to aggressions against private and public property so far," Interior Minister Robles says.

Robles says that the worse instances of violence occurred in Quito, followed by Esmeraldas, and that in other cities "outbursts of criminal and punishable violence were not as intense."

He then proceeds to report on arrests. He says 26 people were arrested in Quito, 30 in Guayaquil, 13 in El Oro, 5 in Manabi, 3 in another city, 1 in Ambato, 3 in Guaranda, and 2 in Ibarra.

Robles reports on the number of injured, saying six civilians were wounded in Quito and five policemen were injured in Quito.

Robles says the government attempted to act with moderation, and he warns that the government "from now on will not allow that, using as pretexts demands which at a given moment may be very legitimate, these situations be taken advantage of to politicize the situation and jeopardize the democratic stability of the country."

Robles adds that "if necessary, and according to the circumstances characterizing actions that stray from normality, the government will adopt measures as warranted by the situation, to prevent the country from falling prey to chaos. This is a very definitive warning," he stresses.

Strike Called 'Cowardly'

PA291906 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Opening the 16th congress of taxi drivers in Guayaquil, Ecuadoran President Leo Febres Cordero alluded to Wednesday's strike, terming it a cowardly and condemnable action. He said that work is one of the supreme duties of mankind. Work dignifies, elevates, and permits man to decently satisfy his family's needs, and it provides the opportunity to stress the merits and virtues of each individual.

The president added that idleness is harmful: The suspension of tasks that correspond to each individual, no matter what pretext is used to unsuccessfully justify stopping work, is condemnable cowardice. A halt in tasks makes countries move backward and entails a betrayal of the true citizens' interests, Febres Cordero said, alluding to but not mentioning the recent strike.

The president said: If an individual not only refuses to contribute to the common good, but treacherously uses vandalism to prevent his compatriots -- aware and responsible citizens -- from fulfilling their duties, he is truly committing a crime against the fatherland.

Arrests Reported

PA281229 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Pichincha Police Superintendent Patricio Levares has said that approximately 26 people were arrested, several injured, and many car windshields broken during Wednesday's 24-hour strike.

[Begin recording] [Levares] The arrested were tried today in accordance with the law and received a 4-day prison sentence, in accordance with Article 600-c, No 9, which establishes fines of [words indistinct] 120 sucres or 4 days in prison. We decided [words indistinct] Republic, they will serve the prison sentence.

[Reporter] Mr Superintendent, can you repeat how many people were arrested?

[Levares] Twenty-five, but three of them were minors, so the total is 23 [as heard].

[Reporter] Were there reports on injured people?

[Levares] Yes, we have reports of six injured. Attorneys are also processing those who threw Molotov cocktails [word indistinct].

[Reporter] Who were they?

[Levares] Two groups of 12 people. Three people have been arrested and an arrest warrant has been issued for another person.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] fired against the students [words indistinct].

[Levares] No, they did not fire. They threw a Molotov cocktail at an Army vehicle. Three policemen were burned.

[Reporter] Gunshots were fired from the building on Jaime Roldos Street.

[Levares] The same criminal proceeding applies.

[Reporter] How many [words indistinct]?

[Levares] Two were arrested. A minor was sent to the juvenile court.

[Reporter] Who are the [words indistinct]?

[Levares] A Mr Ramirez and a Mr Espino. I cannot reveal the minor's name.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] for having fired.

[Levares] [Words indistinct] in accordance with the law. [words indistinct]. [end recording]

PRESIDENT REJECTS COURT RESOLUTION ON ECONOMY

PA291945 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] President Leon Febres Cordero has ordered that Court of Constitutional Guarantees resolution voiding the measure on the floating of interest rates not be published in the Official Gazette. It was announced that the president made the decision in defense of the right the Constitution and legal system grant the executive to direct the economy.

Complying with the first of my constitutional duties and powers -- which is to fulfill and enforce the Constitution, laws, decrees, and international agreements -- the unnumbered and undated Court of Constitutional Guarantees resolution sent with note No 044, dated 24 March, cannot be published in the Official Gazette, the president stated.

STROESSNER MAY ANNOUNCE END OF STATE OF SIEGE

PY261808 Paris AFP in Spanish 1118 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Asuncion, 26 Mar (AFP) -- Political analysts predicted here today that in a 1 April message opening the congressional session, General Alfredo Stroessner will announce that he will continue as head of the Paraguayan Government. They predicted that he will also announce the lifting of the state of siege.

The analysts do not think that Stroessner will miss this opportunity -- his speech will be nationally broadcast over a radio and television network -- to try and stop internal disputes within the Colorado Party, the political backbone of his government.

According to political experts and diplomats, Stroessner will indicate to Congress that he will accept the nomination for reelection for the presidential election of March 1989 if his supporters in Congress, in grassroots organizations, and in the government leadership remain loyal to him. This condition will also result in the elevation of the status of party leaders in Congress and in the Colorado executive board of those members who are completely identified with the Stroessnerist line.

The experts take it for granted that those party dissidents who still hold seats both in Congress and in the party's executive board will be replaced by members who are loyal to Stroessner.

The analysts have not agreed, however, on the possible announcement of the lifting of the state of siege, which has been in force in the country since Stroessner came into power in 1954. Skeptical analysts have said that the usual decree extending the state of siege for another 90-day period may just not be published in the press because the state of siege has been an unpopular, exceptional measure and because it would not be politically wise for Stroessner to admit that he has suspended constitutional guarantees.

Those who believe otherwise claim that if Stroessner lifts the state of siege and authorizes exiles to return to the country, his speech could be interpreted as an invitation to the opposition to participate in the 1988 election, because he would thus be yielding to some of the opposition's demands. These analysts believe that if Stroessner lifts the state of siege he could be taking the first step toward removing a major cause of criticism against his government, which has been criticized time and again by Paraguayan opponents as well as by politicians and human rights organizations from the Americas and Europe.

A strong group of businessmen and politicians are determined to challenge Stroessner in the 1988 election if the Febrerista Revolutionary Party, the only opposition party recognized by the government, agreeds to lend them its label. This group is imbued with the ideas of foreign politicians who met in Asuncion with leaders of the National Accord coalition, which favors boycotting the election.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO ITALY APPROVED -- The Italian Government has approved the appointment of Anibal Fernandez as the new Paraguayan ambassador to Italy. [Summary] [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 17 Mar 87 p 11 PY]

SENATE APPROVES DEFENSE MINISTRY; JETS BUZZ LIMA

PY272114 Paris AFP in Spanish 1822 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Lima, 27 Mar (AFP) -- Political analysts believe President Alan Garcia is facing military opposition of unpredictable consequences after last night's Senate approval of the controversial bill creating a defense ministry.

The bill, which was rammed through the Senate by the majority government APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] Party during a third special congressional session called by Garcia, gives the president the power to promulgate within 180 days the Defense Ministry Law and to make the appropriate changes.

This morning, Air Force jets buzzed the city. There was also a 20-minute blackout very early in the morning. Rumors of a coup were denied. There were also rumors, which were unconfirmed or denied, that the military ministers had resigned. This is what the crisis is like amid official secrecy.

Several residents of the southern districts of Lima who called AFP to find out about the air exercises asked about the meaning of the flights. They also sought answers as to whether the Air Force jets were meant as an intimidation ploy.

Neither government nor military officials were willing to comment on the flights or the blackout in the southern part of the city. Garcia lives in that area and spent last night there after returning from a 3-day official visit to Mexico.

Yesterday, Army Commander General Enrique Lopez Albujar evaded local reporters' questions about whether there was any reason to believe that the democratic system in Peru is breaking down.

The Army commander said: I do not think there is any indication of such a thing at this time. There is nothing that would indicate that. He added that the Army respects the Constitution but refused to indicate whether it is necessary to create a defense ministry. Concerning the public opposition to the creation of a defense ministry expressed by about 200 retired Armed Forces officers, Gen Lopez said that the retired officers are regular citizens.

Gen Lopez Albujar publicly admitted that a statement was made recently by active-duty Army officers who announced the creation of the Francisco Bolognesi Movement but he did not identify its leaders. That organization released a statement to the public and especially to the Peruvian president expressing its complete disagreement with and rejection of his intention to divide the Armed Forces.

The Army commander told reporters: I have to learn the source of that document. The movement's statement warns that democracy cannot be strengthened by reviving unnecessary bitterness. It questions whether Garcia is trying to establish a civilian dictatorship, create chaos in the national defense, jeopardize national security especially under the current situation (guerrillas), politicize the Armed Forces, or create disagreement by fomenting rivalries within and among the Armed Forces.

Concerning the rumors of the resignation of the military ministers, political sources have said that resignations were submitted by Navy Minister Admiral Willy Harm and Aeronautics Minister General Jose Guerra Lorenzetti. The same sources indicated that War Minister General Jorge Flores Torres reportedly also received strong pressure to resign.

The Senate debate that granted President Garcia legislative powers was strongly opposed by the political parties of the left and right.

Senator Gaston Acurio of the Popular Action Party ironically described the attitude of the official congressional bloc with the following phrase: It seems that to be in tune with the Mexican mold, the people should sing the song "Jalisco Never Loses" instead of "The King Now."

Air Force Head on Constitution

PY281238 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0232 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] The Peruvian Air Force Commander has reasserted that the military strictly respects the Constitution. As is known, the bill creating a defense ministry was passed in the Senate last night.

The Air Force commander added that if Congress and the constitutional authorities determine that a defense ministry is to be created, the Armed Forces will respect that decision.

Army Chief on Defense Ministry

PY271809 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0331 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Lima, 26 Mar (EFE) -- Peruvian Army Commander in Chief Enrique Lopez Albujar, referring to the project to create a unified defense ministry, has said that the Peruvian Army will abide by the Constitution.

The Army commander in chief stated that the retired oficers who expresssed their disagreement over the creation of such a ministry through various communiques are free to express their opinion. The retired Army, Navy and Air Force officers, as well as conservative political parties represented in Congress, think the creation of this ministry, in view of the current situation in Peru, is inopportune.

The proposal is being discussed by the Senate after having been approved by the Chamber of Deputies where the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] Party -- to which President Alan Garica belongs -- holds the majority of seats.

When asked whether he considered it convenient to merge the three military ministries that currently exist, General Lopez Albujar said that to make that kind of statement would not be appropriate "because it would represent a political statement."

However, the Army commander stated that if the Armed Forces are called to cooperate with drawing up a law to create a defense ministry they would do so after analyzing the situation. The general also said that the Peruvian people are aware that the Armed Forces abide by the Constitution, which excludes them from being directly involved in political activities.

INTERIOR MINISTER: CURFEW TO REMAIN IN EFFECT

PY281255 Lima Latinoamericana Television in Spanish 0320 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Interior Minister Abel Salinas has announced that the curfew will remain in effect. He also commented on recent terrorist attacks.

[Begin recording] [Salinas] The population is providing more cooperation on this issue, and we have noted this with satisfaction. We expect this cooperation to continue because it is an expression of the people's feeling against such attacks.

[Reporter] Is there any possibility the curfew might be lifted in the near future?

[Salinas] We have just extended the state of emergency. This is the best answer to your question.

[Reporter] Could there be a suspension? Or is this impossible?

[Salinas] It has not been considered, and we do not believe we have sufficient reasons to consider it. Regarding the curfew, I want to tell you that it is under continuous evaluation, as the government should always do in the conduct of domestic politics. In this case, consultation with the people through surveys to find out their feelings is also continuous. For the time being the curfew will remain in force. [end recording]

SUPREME SOVIET'S VOSKANYAN ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PY201233 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0723 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Lima, 30 Mar (EFE) -- Grant Voskanyan, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, arrived last night in Lima on a 5-day offical visit. He will meet with the presidents of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, and with President Alan Garcia.

Voskanyan confirmed Mikhail Gorbachev's upcoming Latin American tour but said that no date has yet been set.

Voskanyan indicated that Mexico and Argentina, which have issued special invitations, are two countries Gorbachev will probably visit on his tour.

Voskanyan, responding to reporters, said that the purpose of his visit is to strengthen relations with Peru. He labeled President Alan Garcia as "a leader of international status."

Regarding the Soviet resumption of nuclear tests, Voskanyan indicated that the USSR is willing to stop them at any time if an agreement for a meeting on this issue with U.S. officials can be reached.

He added: "The USSR recently proposed several peace initiatives such as the cessation of nuclear testing, but unfortunately they were not accepted by the U.S. Government."

Grant Voskanyan, who came to Peru on an invitation of the Peruvian Congress, was welcomed at the airport by Adolfo Guevara Velasco, vice president of the Senate, and Daniel Vera Ballon, vice president of the Chamber of Deputies.

FURTHER ON VISIT OF PERUVIAN PRESIDENT GARCIA

Meets With 'Intellectuals'

FL262025 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0406 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 24 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- During a long exchange of views with Peruvian President Alan Garcia, a group of Mexican intellectuals have expressed their opposition to the IMF restrictions and favored a less exploitive and aggressive policy by creditor countries.

Throughout the course of a private dinner, the Peruvian head of state and the Mexican intellectuals mainly analyzed the Peruvian position of using only 10 percent of its exports to pay its foreign debt interests. They also assessed the approach taken by the Mexican Government in foreign debt matters. [passage omitted]

Receives Key to City

PA260347 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Peruvian President Alan Garcia said this morning that Latin American countries are not the Third World but the new world. Democracy will be consolidated, but to be democratic in the broad sense of the word it must be anti-imperialist in nature.

The Peruvian president made this statement after receiving the keys to the city in the Town Council Room of the capital's government house, where Regent Ramon Aguirre Velasquez welcomed Garcia and voiced his conviction that Latin America will overcome its problems.

Before this ceremony, Garcia unveiled a bust of Victor Raul Haya de la Torre [founder of Peru's American Popular Revolutionary Alliance, APRA] in the park that, beginning today, will be known as the Republic of Peru Garden.

During that ceremony, Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda presented a biographical profile of Peruvian leader Haya de la Torre, who received his revolutionary training while in exile for many years in Mexico.

In the morning, President Alan Garcia stood at attention before the homeland's altar, and at noon he visited the main temple.

Issues Joint Communique

PA270216 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpts] At their second and final round of talks, President Miguel de la Madrid and Peruvian President Alan Garcia issued a communique stating their positions regarding the foreign debt problem. They pointed out that the two governments are determined to honor their commitments, but first they must ensure the peoples' right to economic and social development.

In the document the two president state that a global solution of the debt problem requires a formula that would unite trade and finance so the development of the nations can be hastened through credits.

De la Madrid and Garcia expressed their support for the Contadora Group and rejected the arms buildup. The presidents also established a common struggle against drug trafficking.

In another section of the communique, Mexico and Peru stated that a change in the industrialized countries' protectionist policies is essential. During a news conference, the Peruvian president pointed out that his government and Mexico's share the idea that development is not achieved only with loans. The document reiterated the need for Latin America integration so that democracy can progress and imperialism be controlled. [passage omitted]

The Peruvian president expressed his view on the traits a leader should possess. He said a leader should not enforce policies for personal gain or vanity. Garcia said no one can defend democracy if democracy does not exist within his own conscience. [passage omitted]

Discusses 'Group of 8' Summit

PA270053 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0339 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Mar (EFE) -- Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid has suggested holding a presidential "summit" of the "Group of Eight," Peruvian President Alan Garcia said here tonight.

During a news conference, Garcia said that De la Madrid made the proposal in the course of their second round of talks, saying that it should be considered by the group, comprised of the Contadora and Support Groups.

Following a Mexican initiative, the "Group of Eight" was created in December 1986 in Rio de Janiero, by agreement of the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Garcia, who is on an official visit to Mexico, said that agreeing on a "summit of the eight" would be "very important, because it would be another milestone in the unification" of Latin America.

He said that the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group and the Support Group -- also known as the "Lima Group" because it was founded in that city -- will study De la Madrid's proposal.

Garcia did not mention a date or place for the meeting, but he explained that the foreign ministers will look over their presidents' agendas and examine the possibilities of holding it.

The merging of the Contadora and Lima Groups into the Group of Eight began in October 1986 in Mexico City, when the deputy foreign ministers of the eight Latin American countries met to evaluate the Central American crisis. At that time, Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda said that it was necessary that the Latin American countries compose a "united front" to secure better footing in the various negotiations they were to undertake in the near future.

PSUM ENDORSES LEFTIST UNIFICATION EFFORTS

PA280136 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 23 Mar 87 p 2

[Article by correspondent Ignacio Cortes Morales]

[Text] Cuernavaca, Morelos, 22 Mar — Immer Sergio Jimenez Alfonzo, a local United Socialist deputy, has reported that at a meeting held today at party offices, the United Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM) unanimously agreed to advance its efforts to unite with other leftist organizations.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Jimenez Alfonzo said that in addition to approving the agreement that will unite the PSUM, the Mexican Workers Party (PMT), the People's Revolutionary Movement (MRP), the Communist Left Unity (UIC), and the Revolutionary Patriotic Party (PPR), the party elected Flor Guerrero Goss as secretary general of the PSUM in Morelos. In this post she will attend the PSUM National Congress to be held in Mexico City from Wednesday, 25 March to Sunday, 29 March.

Also approved at this meeting were the state committee report, the financial report, and the report submitted by local legislator Jimenez Alfonzo.

PSUM Central Committee Member Antonio Becerra stated in an interview with EL DIA that this merger "of the left enters into the terrain of good common sense, as it reflects knowledge of what a lack of unity implies and gives a response to people who have criticized the disagreements that have existed in this political sector."

Becerra, who is also a member of the PSUM State Committee in Chihuahua, added: "Unification will correct leftist errors such as sectarianism, intellectual arrogance, intolerance, and caciquism, and it will allow the formation of authentic parties, instead of ideological groups."

He stressed the fact that "there is no indication that there will be a unification with the National Action Party (PAN), because PAN is a political organization with different and opposing values."

On another subject, even though he acknowledged the intervention of the clergy in the country's life has not been positive, and despite the fact that the PSUM has not requested that political rights be restored to priests, Becerra said that it was his personal opinion that the Constitution should be updated and "to that end, it is necessary to eliminate Article 130." [not further identified]

CPSU PRAISES PSUM'S 'ANTI-IMPERIALIST' ROLE

PA280017 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 25 Mar 87 p 4

[Text] The CPSU has sent a message to the PSUM on occasion of the third National Congress of this Mexican organization. In its message, the CPSU notes that the PSUM has played an outstanding role in the anti-imperialist struggle in Central America and throughout Latin America. The message states that the Soviet Communists state their solidarity with the PSUM in this effort.

The CPSU message states that "the objective of the workers movement and those of liberating and establising a just economic order in the world can only be achieved in a world free of the threat of nuclear disaster."

The fact that there exists broad international support for the program that calls for the elimination of nuclear weapons and other types of mass extermination weapons by the end of the century is evidence of the people's growing understanding of the need for taking actions to save civilization.

The Soviet greeting notes: "The Soviet Union highly values Mexico's position on this matter as well as its fruitful participation in the Group of Six, which is greatly contributing to nuclear disarmament."

FINANCE SECRETARY EXPLAINS NEW LOAN PROGRAMS

PA281820 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Humberto Mares Navarro report from Yucatan]

[Text] Speaking during a working meeting of the regional development banking group in Merida, Secretary of Finance and Public Credit Gustavo Petricioli has stated that the new loans Mexico has received are necessary for its development, are undoubtedly legal, and are not the result of hasty negotiations. President Miguel de la Madrid also attended the meeting. Petricioli also explained that the resources will be assigned according to plans and will be done through the development banks.

Petricioli added that although these new loans alleviate the economic situation, efforts must continue. He reported that the development banks will mainly support housing construction, agricultural, fishing, and tourism projects. The secretary of finance and public credit says the development banks should promote changes with an overall plan to prevent duplication.

It was also reported during the working meeting that federal government will allocate 3 trillion pesos to loans for farming projects and 6.7 trillion pesos to loans for exports. (Alfredo Philips Olmedo), the director-general of the National Bank of Foreign Trade, said the 6.7 trillion pesos to support export activities represent a 111-percent increase compared to the support given in 1986. He pointed out that in 1986, nonpetroleum exports grew by a little over 40 percent to reach a total of $9.7 billion.

Meanwhile, (Jose Gamas Torruco), director of the National Bank for Rural Credit, reported that the bank will allocate 1.43 trillion pesos to support the loan programs for peasants.

BRIEFS

NAVY SECRETARY ON TRAFFICKING -- Navy Secretary Admiral Miguel Angel Gomez Ortega has stated that the Mexican Navy stepped up its struggle against drug trafficking in the last 2 months. More than 2,200 kg of marijuana were confiscatd, and 1,400 plants, 266 kg, and 19 packages of marijuana were burned. Also, 21 people involved in drug trafficking were arrested, and 1 aircraft, 5 vehicles, several guns, and $1,732 in cash were confiscated. [Text] [Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 Mar 87 PA]

COSTA RICA

ARIAS ON PEACE PROPOSAL, ESQUIPULAS SUMMIT

PA260419 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] President Oscar Arias has asserted that he must be flexible in case his Central American colleagues do not accept the date he proposes for the Esquipulas meeting. The president has suggested the third week of June, which would give him the chance to widely disseminate his peace proposal in Europe during his May visit. Nevertheless, his proposal has not received a reply, and Arias will allow the president of Guatemala to seek a consensus concerning a date for the meeting.

President Arias has stated that the Foreign Ministry will soon provide abundant details about the peace proposal. In this way, everyone will be better prepared for the upcoming presidential meeting in Esquipulas, the president stated. He added that this involves a trip to Central America, including Nicaragua, and then to Europe, to explain the plan.

Arias recalled that contacts have already been established with the Cantadora Group member countries, to inform them about the goals of the proposal. He underscored that the efforts are being made because the world expects a fruitful agreement from the Esquipulas meeting.

Nicaraguan Group Views Plan

PA280043 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, members of the Nicaraguan Coordinating Board communicated to Costa Rican President Oscar Arias their position on his peace proposal.

Miriam Argueyo, vice president of this Nicaraguan organization, characterized the peace plan as a valid initiative that makes Oscar Arias' interest in peace in Central America evident.

She said that the observations made to Oscar Arias could not be made public now because the document containing these observations has just been presented to the Costa Rican president. In her opinion, if the Nicaraguan Government is intelligent, it will accept the peace plan. She emphasized that the Coordinating Board represents a real political opposition because it represents those who are in the country, and not the opposition that remains outside Nicaraguan territory.

Miriam Argueyo said that her group will remain in Costa Rica until Sunday and that it will try to meet with some political leaders. She did not discard the possibility of visiting other countries of the region before returning to Managua.

Comments on Habib Meeting

PA252243 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] After his meeting with U.S. Special Envoy to Central America Philip Habib, President Oscar Arias affirmed that Habib had not talked to him about the points of his peace plan and whether the United States has any objections.

Arias noted that Costa Rica has emphasized political matters. He admitted there could be some points which worry Washington and other Central American countries. However, Arias said it is difficult for him to discuss amnesty or a cease-fire because Costa Rica has not had such problems.

Arias said Habib had no reason to repeat the concerns about the peace plan that he mentioned in Honduras. Arias added that during the hour and a half meeting he had with Habib they discussed the possibility of a Central American presidents' summit in June at Tulane University in New Orleans, and the reasons Arias has requested the Equipulas meeting be held after his European tour.

ARIAS REASSERTS ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY PLEDGE

PA252242 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpt] President Oscar Arias has reasserted his pledge on Costa Rica's economic democracy. He reasserted his pledge to consolidate freedom, defend democracy, and (?strengthen) peace. He said that nothing creates more inequality than unemployment.

President Oscar Arias last night recalled the pledge he made the day after he was elected president, on 3 February 1986, concerning our economic democracy, in which more Costa Ricans could become owners and share Costa Rica's riches. He attended the presentation of the Costa Rican Development Association's program at the [words indistinct] Holiday Inn Hotel and asserted: My government believes new businessmen are particularly important because they represent a development factor. [passage omitted]

EL SALVADOR

ARMY REPORTS SUBMARINE SUPPLYING REBELS

PA270445 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 24 Mar 87 p 32

[Excerpt] San Miguel, 24 Mar -- Through the military intelligence services and the collaboration of fishermen and peasants from El Cuco and El Bongo in the jurisdiction of Chirilagua, Military Detachment No 3 [DM-3] of La Union was informed that a large unidentified submarine had been seen entering the Pacific coastal regions in that area and using rubber boats to disembark arms and other war materiel for the guerrillas. The submarine would then allegedly embark wounded men, according to reports by Colonel Ciro Lopez Roque, DM-3 commander.

The fishermen who have been questioned regarding the incidents informed the DM-3 intelligence service that the submarine is "very large and has a black hull. It surfaces at dawn. Upon receiving a lantern signal, boats are taken out of the submarine. The boats then make several trips unloading arms and many boxes. This activity is followed by the embarkation of men, and then the submarine submerges and disappears." Col Lopez Roque said that last week it was reported that the submarine in question surfaced at dawn on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. As a result, a detailed report has been prepared for the joint chiefs of staff so that radar or sonar systems can be provided to facilitate the detection of the submarine or submarines through a security network on the coasts of La Union, San Miguel, and Usulutan.

Col Lopez Roque explained that the discovery of the mercenary [as published] submarine presence in Salvadoran territorial waters answers the question of how the guerrillas were receiving arms after the Armed Forces cut off their land supply routes on the border with Honduras. The DM-3 commander said that the discovery also explains the large quantity of new weapons, ammunition, and other supplies that the detachment's troops discovered and seized at camps that were dismantled last week and this week. The discovery of the submarine also explains the case of an important camp occupied by the Army in Guadalupe Canton, also in Chirilagua. In those areas, Col Lopez Roque said, the DM-3 special troops have fought fierce clashes with the guerrillas, inflicting considerable casualties and seizing arms, ammunition, and materials for manufacturing explosives, etc.

The same officer reported that the DM-3, using special guerrilla warfare units, is carrying out a permanent operation throughout La Union Department. This operation also covers large areas of Morazan and San Miguel. When these special units meet forces from Military Detachment No 4 of Gotera, the 3d Brigade, and the "Arce" Battalion of San Miguel, they all move toward their bases, "combing" the most conflictive areas where the subversives' presence is persistent. Colonel Lopez Roque said that he is proud of how the DM-3 personnel are demonstrating their combat readiness in the clashes with the rebel groups, while protecting the towns and communities of La Union. [passage omitted]

REBELS BLAME GOVERNMENT FOR SCHOOL SEIZURE

PA262319 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 26 Mar 87

[FMLN General Command Communique dated 25 March]

[Text] The FMLN General Command reports:

1. The seizing of the Sergio Valdez School in the San Jacinto neighborhood on Wednesday, 25 March, by a sergeant discharged from the Armed Forces Transmission [as heard] Center -- this individual took more than 900 children and 17 teachers hostage -- was an action for which the Armed Forces of the Napoleon Duarte government is totally responsible.

2. This criminal action was a manifestation of the profound decomposition and insanity the Armed Forces have generated at all levels. This situation is also evident at the Legislative Assembly and [words indistinct], the formation of robbers and kidnappers, officers who [words indistinct] restaurants, soldiers who launch grenades at homes, troops who set mines on streets and [words indistinct] to provoke civilian victims and then blame the FMLN.

3. These facts make evident the contempt for the population [words indistinct] and for the rank and file soldiers who are being pushed by U.S. advisers. This is an indication of the atrocities the Army commits against children, elderly people, and women in the regions in conflict.

4. The deep moral decay of the Army is a result of the forced recruiting of young people who are then trained in terrorist methods by U.S. military men. The high level of drug addiction, as Dr Fuigero Ugaeta of the Military Hospital admitted a few days ago, is a problem [words indistinct] that results, especially, from knowing that they are struggling for an unjust, lost cause and that they are forced to do so.

5. During the seizure, the Armed Forces High Command spread the absurd idea that this was an FMLN action. However, our fighters never carry out actions as irrational as this one, and much less when the actions go against poor sectors. This has simply been an effort by the Armed Forces High Command to diminish the effect this action is having against them.

6. Finally, considering that what is in danger is the lives of teachers and children of workers in a people's neighborhood, the General Command of the FMLN warns the Armed Forces High Command that if, as a product of this unfortunate event, or of events similar to this one carried out by Army Sergeant (Francisco Roides), any minor or any worker is wounded or dies, the FMLN will take strong reprisal measures to clearly punish the military and the Napoleon Duarte government.

General Command of the FMLN, 25 March 1987

FMLN KIDNAPS MAYOR, TELLS OTHERS TO RESIGN

PA280144 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Attention, attention please. FMLN units captured the Christian Democratic mayor of San Cayetano Ixtepeque several weeks ago. He is being held to determine whether he has participated in enemy plans, including the "United To Rebuild" counterinsurgency plan, and the plans to establish Civil Defense bands.

We warn mayors in the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front in San Vicente Department, Zacatecoluca, the eastern departments of San Miguel, Usulutan, La Union, and Morazan, and in towns near FMLN-controlled areas not to continue lending themselves to enemy plans. Mayors who continue at their posts will be captured. Those who want to continue to be mayors will have to go to the departmental capitals to work. The only way they can stay in their towns is by resigning their posts, which the Duarte administration uses as instruments of the counterinsurgency plans against the Salvadoran people.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON IMMIGRATION BILL

PA271340 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 25 Mar 87 pp 3, 17

[Text] Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta has stated in a news conference that a massive deportation of Salvadorans from the United States as a result of the Simpson-Rodino bill is improbable.

Acevedo just returned from Europe and the United States where he held top-level talks to properly assist hundreds of fellow countrymen living illegally in various U.S. states.

The foreign minister said he had spoken frankly to Reagan administration officials about the adverse effects a massive deportation would have on the Salvadoran economy and on the democratic process. Acevedo said he requested technical-economic assistance for projects of regulated immigration.

We later made a direct request to the U.S. president for an EVD, "Extensive Voluntary Departure," [preceding three words in English] to prevent Salvadorans from being deported, thus creating an exception to the Simpson-Rodino bill and preferential treatment, historically unprecedented in the United States, Acevedo said.

After meeting with officials from the Reagan administration and Congress, we reached the conclusion there will not be a massive deportation of Salvadorans when the law is applied, Acevedo said. Likewise it has been proven there has been a permanent flow of Salvadorans returning to their country voluntarily. The CIM [expansion unknown] reports having received in the past 2 years more than 12,000 Salvadorans from the United States, Acevedo said.

The reason massive deportations will not take place is because that is neither the spirit of the bill nor the intention. The law may be applied in a broad sense, to allow for the legalization of thousands of illegal immigrants, who may receive protection from the law. The Reagan administration may eventually make some changes to the bill and there is currently no regulation for its implementation, Foreign Minister Acevedo Peralta said.

Foreign Minister Acevedo said he has given instructions to the Salvadoran ambassador and to all consuls in the United States, and he has hired "lobbyists" (top level contacts) aimed at better influencing public officials to obtain possibilities of an option that can mitigate the radical effects of the law.

Likewise, Acevedo said a new Salvadoran consultate could be opened in Chicago within 70 days. A center for free legal assistance could be created within the consulates, Acevedo said.

In our country we will implement all identified poalicies through the creation of an Office of Immigration Control and Service at the Foreign Ministry, the proposal of a transitory draft bill to facilitate voluntary repatriation measures economically and legally, and finally, the setting of an agreement with Mexico to facilitate the trnsit of Salvadorans coming from the United States through Texican territory.

GUATEMALA

FRG'S VON WEIZSAECKER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PA260432 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Amid the expected jubilation of German descendants, FRG President Richard von Weizsaecker, and a retinue of approximately 70 people arrived in our country. The jubilation of German descendants is logical as no personality from that country with such a high rank has ever visited our country before.

Entire German families were among the hundreds of people who gathered early at the airport with flags and banners to welcome the president of one of the most powerful and influential nations in the world.

The Christian Democratic government this afternoon took great pains at preparing a warm welcome for the FRG president and organized a great show to ensure that Herr President will feel at home.

Tonight, President Cerezo will offer a gala dinner for the German president and his retinue at the National Palace. Numerous distinguished visitors, who are members of the retinue of the country on the Rhine River, will be decorated during the dinner.

Meets Cerezo

LD261611 Hamburg DPA in German 0141 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Guatemala City (DPA) -- Federal President Richard von Weizsaecker appealed to Guatemala President Vinicio Cerezo on Wednesday not to ease off in the restitution of human rights in his country. At a reception given by Cerezo in honor of the German guest, who has arrived for a state visit, Weizsaecker paid tribute to Cerezo's services toward the restitution of democracy in Guatemala.

Weizsaecker emphasized that although it is difficult to implement respect for human rights from one day to the next, it is indispenable. In the interest of democracy, the hopes people attached to it should not be disappointed.

Weizsaecker, who is entering the last stage of his Latin American tour with his 5-day visit to Guatemala, stressed the efforts of the Guatemalan Government to secure peace in Central America, and said that Cerezo had given a "hopeful example" to a region shaken by crises and conflicts.

It is vital to encourage Central America to mobilize its own forces, and to help it greatly in the economic field, instead of backing military conflicts in the region. He warned the superpowers against fanning tensions on Latin American soil. Otherwise there could be neither peace nor democratic and social development.

The federal president approved the economic integration of the states of Central America, in which Guatemala has an important role to play. The Federal Republic will stand firmly by Guatemala in its initiatives to overcome economic difficulties. According to Weizsaecker, the Federal Republic and Guatemala prepared a captial aid agreement, to be signed during his state visit by Federal Development Minister Hans Klein (CSU) [Christian Social Union] who is accompanying him. This provides for financial aid of DM40 million and technical aid of DM13 million. Guatemala is not obliged to repay the DM13 million. The DM40 million of financial aid, to be granted with particularly favorable conditions, will be used half as commodity assistance and the remainder for financing highway construction. During his talks with the Guatemalan Government, the federal president intends to enquire about certain cases of human rights violations. He was asked to do so before setting out on his journey by, among others, Amnesty International, the prisoners' aid association.

Various human rights organizations have repeatedly pointed out that despite the democratically elected government, which has been in office for a year, there is still an incidence of cases of human rights violations perpetrated by certain military or private persons. Von Weizsaecker made a statement about this to the German Press Agency (DPA) on his flight from La Paz to Guatemala. He pointed out that the political situation in the Central American state continues to be difficult. This is why it was necessary to support the president in the continuation of democratization. Here is the text of the federal president's remarks:

"I look forward to the visit to Guatemala with eager interest. A good year ago, Guatemala formed a democratically legitimate government in a democratically clean election. But the difficulties continue to be great. I shall be asking the president for an assessment of the situation regarding economic development, social hardships, and the respecting of human rights. We wish to and we must strengthen the new democratic base. We cannot close our eyes to the fact that social tensions and the private use of force have not yet been overcome. But the democratic targets set by the president, and the trust which he enjoys widely among the population, require our support."

Discusses Region

PA291602 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] In a news conference last night, FRG President Richard von Weizsaecker expressed his deep admiration for the Guatemalan people, their deep desire for democracy, and their efforts to free themselves from poverty and violence. He said he hopes they will achieve this and for this reason, he and his government express their solidarity with Guatemala.

Viewing the role of the Guatemalan press, Weizsaecker described the press freedom he observed in the country as very positive and admirable. He expressed deep admiration and great respect for the climate of press freedom and the journalists' freedom to work in the country.

The FRG president reiterated the FRG's support for democracy in Guatemala, adding that changes cannot take place overnight. He said he did not come to criticize, but to express solidarity and support for the path toward authentic democracy.

Regarding the Central American problems, he said he supports the peace proposals. However, he does not view them as prior conditions, but as a consequence of the negotiation mechanisms. In this sense, the FRG president said he supports Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' peace proposal to the Contadora Group and President Cerezo's initiative on the Central American Parliament, which should be formed through free elections in each country of the region.

GOVERNMENT 'FULLY SUPPORTS' ARIAS PEACE PLAN

PA292216 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo today said that Guatemala fully supports the peace plan for Central America recently proposed by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias as this plan directly urges peace, cooperation, and security in the Central American region.

According to the Guatemalan president, the Arias document calls for a cease-fire in Central America, an end to the arms race, and regional peace and cooperation. These are the reasons why the document has our full support and because Costa Rican President Arias supports the creation of the Central American parliament, Vinicio Cerezo concluded.

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON ESQUIPULAS SUMMIT

PA261639 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Press communique issued by the Foreign Secretariat's Directorate of Information and Press on 25 March; read by Information and Press Director Eugenio Castro -- live]

[Text] The Honduran Foreign Secretariat informs the national and international public that:

1. Rumors spread by the foreign media insinuating that President Jose Azcona is reluctant to attend the Esquipulas meeting are false.

2. The statements attributed to alleged Costa Rican Government spokesman which would be disparaging to the goodwill and respect with which the Honduran Government participated in the San Jose meeting of 15 February 1987 at the invitation of Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, are biased and unjustified.

3. The Honduran Government has supported President Arias' diplomatic initiative as proven by the fact that President Azcona attended the San Jose summit on 15 February 1987 despite learning about the proposal only 2 days before.

4. According to the joint declaration issued at the San Jose summit, the presidents viewed President Arias' proposal as a feasible, timely, and constructive instrument to find peace in Central America through political negotiation. They also stressed that they wanted to continue their analysis so, with the suggestions and changes deemed appropriate, this proposal can be submitted to discussion and approval in the next meeting of the five Central American presidents in Esquipulas at a date to be determined by all the governments of the region.

5. On 23 February the Honduran Government, through the Foreign Secretariat, announced to the public its preliminary observations on President Arias' proposal.

6. Due to the advance time with which state visits are planned, there have been difficulties concerning the Esquipulas summit because of official trips previously planned by the presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Honduras.

7. The Honduran Government rejects the press rumors aimed at causing false divisions and misunderstandings among the democratic governments of Central America.

8. The Honduran Government also reiterates its willingness to continue the search for peaceful solutions to the armed insurgency of neighboring countries and the resulting Central American crisis through political and diplomatic negotiations.

Tegucigalpa, 25 March 1987

Directorate of Information and Press of the Foreign Secretariat

PINU CONCERNED ABOUT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

PA260106 Teguicigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Statement by Enrique Aguilar Cerrato, president of the National Innovation and Unity Party, PINU; time and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] We are very worried, but somewhat hesitant, because it has been publicly announced there is no coherence in the application of the foreign policies of the Senate and House of Representatives. This means the [words indistinct] government -- I am referring to the U.S. Government -- prepared a plan that apparently has failed and there are ranking U.S. politicians who advocate the full withdrawal from Honduras of all U.S. influence. There seems to be a contradiction, however, because of the U.S. Government has repeatedly warned that Central America is essential to the security of that great northern democratic nation. The United States likewise warns that it could withdraw at any time.

I believe that the Central American problem will not be resolved with a military plan. The Honduran problem especially is socioeconomic, and just as Churchill and Roosevelt confirmed in the Atlanta document, all of the developed, independent countries should provide support so that Third World countries can begin a process of socioeconomic development. This is the best way to safeguard the security of the United States. It is not with tanks and cannons that we will combat poverty and hunger; but with a great deal of understanding and respect for our dignity, our own decisions, and substantial economic support so we can begin our development.

In reality the situation is confusing because the [U.S.] is in an electoral period [as heard]. I have concluded in regard to Honduras' policy toward the United States that the political and democratic sectors should approach the [Honduran] president and seek a policy of national consensus. It is the only way it can defend itself from the clashes between Republicans and Democrats. We have already suffered the first consequence; a loan that was approved recently by the U.S. Congress has been [words indistinct] because the $10 million that Honduras was to receive went to the Guatemalan Government. This is one of the consequences of an uncontrolled policy in the United States.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA WELCOMES GUATEMALA'S CEREZO FOR VISIT

PA291714 [Editorial Report] Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 1539 GMT on 29 March begins an 11-minute live relay from Managua's Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport to cover the arrival of Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo.

At 1539 GMT, a reporter says that President Cerezo arrives in a twin-engine Guatemalan Air Force plane, Cerezo and his wife are greeted on their arrival by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Nicaraguan First Lady Rosario Murillo.

Among the government officials said to be present are Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the Sandinist National Assembly; Colonel Joaquin Cuadra Lacayo, EPS chief of staff; and Acting Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco.

Following the protocol ceremony, which does not include any speeches, and which ends at 1547 GMT, reporter Luis Cabrera obtains a statement from the two presidents. Ortega says: "We welcome President Vinicio Arevalo to Nicaragua with the Central Americanist spirit that characterizes our peoples. We feel that this meeting is of great importance at a time when Latin America and the peoples of the world, particularly the Central American peoples, are struggling for peace. We welcome President Cerezo and his wife."

At 1548 GMT, Cabrera asks President Cerezo to say a few words. Cerezo says: "We have come here with the good faith and affection we have always professed for the Nicaraguan people, and the respect we have for their efforts to forge their own destiny. We share that sentiment, and we are also making our own efforts to build a society that will measure up to our needs. We have come here to find points of coincidence, to discuss necessary issues that must be analyzed in depth to achieve an earnestly desired peace for Central America. I express to the Nicaraguan people, to their president and government the affection Guatemalans have for all Central Americans, and our firm and steadfast determination to contribute with our efforts to foment a united Central America based on mutual respect and on the peace that will benefit us all. Thank you very much."

Following the Cerezo statement, Cabrera says that the two leaders get into a vehicle to leave.

The live relay ends at 1550 GMT.

News Conference Held

PA300249 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0057 GMT 30 Mar 87

[News conference by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo with unidentified reporters at the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua -- live]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr President, can you summarize the talks you held this afternoon with President Ortega?

[Cerezo] (?This afternoon) we analyzed diverse topics. We discussed the diverse peace initiatives that have been proposed. We also felt that [words indistinct] and some matters regarding the domestic policies of each country. These matters concerned dialogue with opposition political parties. Of course, afterwards we noted our interest in reaching a multilateral agreement during the upcoming meeting in Guatemala. However, we did not go into details. We merely talked about our views.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] First, we must have democratization in Latin America and the Caribbean, and particularly in Central America. Here the peoples have been striving for an integral democracy. We are convinced that [words indistinct]. We view democracy as the participation of the peoples and the creative effort of society in terms of actual independence and sovereignty of the country. Therefore, [words indistinct] we have our own idiosyncracies and our own complexities. Based on these factors (?all of us) are building democracy.

[Reporter] Commander Ortega, how do you feel about the visit and meeting with President Cerezo?

[Ortega] My talks with President Cerezo have been frank, based on an Americanist spirit, and have been highly constructive. The purpose was to talk about our views on diverse problems affecting the region. (?The main objective is) peace -- we talked about diverse peace proposals. We discussed the proposal by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and the (?peace proposal) by Nicaragua. Morever, we confirmed our support for the Contadora and Support Groups. We discussed the need to promote in our respective countries the reinforcement of democracy within the framework of political pluralism, which falls within the constitutional framework of our respective countries.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] with President Ortega regarding the opposition groups in Nicaragua. You brought up the issue of talks with (?armed rebels) during your talks with President Ortega. [Words indistinct] you went to meet with these groups.

[Cerezo] [Words indistinct] the time we had. We made room in order to meet with representatives of Nicaraguan opposition parties. I had a private meeting with Social Christian Party President Erick Ramirez. Afterwards, I met with seven parties which sent a letter to the Nicaraguan Government on holding domestic political activities [word indistinct]. Instead, this was a way to corroborate my Central American stance regarding the process of political relaxation. I also tried to promote political pluralism in these countries. I feel that pluralism and democracy are the bases to achieving peace. President Ortega concurs with us on this particular matter. He has said his government is committed to holding talks with the opposition parties within Nicaragua's constitutional framework.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] We have had a permanent dialogue with all the political parties that have accepted the constitutional order. There were political parties in the Constituent National Assembly. [passage indistinct] With regards to the domestic opposition, we have always been willing to talk to the domestic opposition. However, this sector [words indistinct] the U.S. President and government. We are prepared to talk with the U.S. President.

[Reporter] President Cerezo, it is said that you will go to the United States soon to meet with President Reagan. The U.S. Administration has said that 40,000 Marines will conduct maneuvers in Honduras in the next few days. The Pentagon has said these are signals for Nicaragua. The Defense Department stated this could be a prelude to an invasion of Nicaragua. This would set the Central American region on fire. Do you have a special message for the U.S. President?

[Cerezo] During my meeting with the U.S. President, we will no doubt explain Guatemala's active neutrality stance. We reject violent solutions to problems. Guatemala has consistently and permanently adhered to this stance with regards to international matters. We will tell him about our proposal to seek an adequate forum in Central America in order to peacefully settle the problems among countries through dialogue. In order words, during my talks with President Reagan I will adhere to my well-known stance.

[Reporter] Mr President, it has been said that some points included in President Arias' peace plan could be discussed. Can you explain the points which you feel can be discussed?

[Cerezo] In fact, several of the points are of interest to all countries. Some of these points refer to domestic dialogue, the search for solutions to conflicts through peaceful means, mutual respect among countries, and the Central American parliament. We have discussed these issues and expressed our views on them. We hope to be able to reach an agreement on these points in the upcoming [words indistinct] meeting.

Joint Communique Signed

PA300300 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0052 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Joint communique signed by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra and Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo on 29 March at the Augusto C. Sandino Airport in Managua; read by Vice Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera -- live]

[Text] Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo visited Managua on 29 March 1987 and met with Nicaraguan President Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra. The conversations were held in a very frank and cordial atmosphere, in accordance with their standing as presidents of Central American nations joined by strong historical ties. They exchanged points of view on various aspects of a bilateral nature, the various peace initiatives that have been proposed concerning the Central America situation, and other topics of common interest to both nations.

When analyzing the Central American crisis, the presidents reaffirmed their firm convinctions that peace -- which the peoples of the area are hoping for -- can only be achieved based on a respect for the norms of coexistence among states, particularly those advocating the self-determination of peoples, banning the policy of using or threatening to use force, and emphasizing a negotiated and peaceful solution.

In this regard, the presidents of the Republics of Guatemala and Nicaragua reiterated their firm support for the Central Americanist efforts for peace, the Contadora Group, and its Support Group. The presidents agreed that dialogue and negotiations are the necessary instruments for strengthening coexistence, nourishing trust, and broadening understanding.

President Vinicio Cerezo reaffirmed Guatemala's policy of neutrality and his stand of rejecting military means as a way to resolve conflicts. The presidents fully agreed on the need to emphasize the importance of promptly forming the Central American parliament as a forum of dialogue, rapprochement, and agreement among the Central American nations.

President Ortega Saavedra reaffirmed his firm determination of continuing to support and promote this initiative of President Cerezo. The presidents of the two countries recongnized the importance of the presidential summit held at Esquipulas in May of last year that was promoted by President Cerezo and voiced their satisfaction with the decision to continue with this dialogue in Guatemala on the occasion of the area presidents' meeting to be held in June of this year.

The presidents voiced their determination to join efforts and agree on common stands in economic issues in order to find joint formulas in coping with the imbalances in the prices of export products, strengthening bilatal trade and economic cooperation with the EEC and the countries in the area, as well as giving new impetus to the institutions that seek Central American economic integration.

In this regard, the presidents fully agreed that the foreign debt problem demands political solutions that favor the goals of social and economic development in the moments of great crisis and frustration in the history of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The two presidents voiced their interest in strengthening even further the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two republics. At the same time, they voiced their unyielding willingness to continue working for the establishment of a just and stable peace that the Central American peoples are so justly demanding.

Managua, 29 March 1987

[Signed] Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, president of the Republic of Guatemala;

Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic of Nicaragua

Cerezo Ends Visit

PA300251 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0117 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] President Vinicio Cerezo is saying farewell to [words indistinct] and he and his entourage are boarding the Guatemalan Air Force Fokker Plane No 1467. This is a special broadcast by the Voz de Nicaragua from the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport at exactly 1918.

The Ceremonial Company of the EPS is rendering the final honors near the plane, which is getting ready to take off. [passage omitted]

The Guatemalan Air Force plane is racing down the runway for takeoff from the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport at 1920. In this way Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo ends his visit today to our country.

ALGERIA'S MESSAADIA ARRIVES 27 MAR FOR 3-DAY VISIT

Meets With Acre

PA280031 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, chief of the permanent secretariat of the Algerian National Liberation Front and a member of the Politburo, arrived in Nicaragua this morning. Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano, deputy coordinator of the Executive Commission of the FSLN's National Directorate, welcomed the Algerian leader with whom he later met to discuss matters of common interest to the two parties.

In the afternoon, Mohamed Cherif Messaadia met with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra. The Algerian leader will be in Nicaragua for 3 days, during which time he will meet with FSLN and mass organization leaders, who will point out the important projects carried out by our Sandinist revolution.

Meets With Ortega

PA272226 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Nicaraguan President and Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra met today with Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, permanent secretary of the Algerian National Liberation Front [FLN] and a member of the Politburo. After the meeting at the Cesar Augusto Silva convention center, the Algerian leader reported that during his talks with President Ortega, the two discussed bilateral issues and other topics such as decolonization and self-determination.

The Nicaraguan president read a message from Colonel Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the FLN, and a message from the Algerian party's political directorate. Also present at the meeting were acting Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, Deputy Foreign Minister Javier Chamorro Mora, and Comrade Julio Lopez, chief of the FSLN international relations department.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

LD290248 Algiers APS in Arabic 1443 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Managua, 28 Mar (APS) -- This afternoon Mohamed Cherif Messaadia met with President Daniel Ortega. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways of reinforcing them. They also discussed other issues of common interest. President Ortega and Brother Messaadia also reviewed the main regional and international problems and the activities of the Nonaligned Movement.

Finally, a cooperation protocol between the FLN and the Sandinist National Liberation Front was signed yesterday by Mohamed Cherif Messaddia and Bayardo Arce Castano.

This cooperation protocol, which will be in effect for 1987-88, stipulates that the sides should, in an orderly and regular manner, exchange their analyses, experiences, and information in order to coordinate their positions on important international issues.

The agreement also provides for the exchange of delegations at the level of parties and mass organizations and stresses the need for cultural exchanges to help the two countries' societies get better acquainted.

PRESIDENT, CABINET WELCOME SWAPO LEADER NUJOMA

PA271341 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic, today received Comrade Sam Nujoma, leader of the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, at Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport.

Other participants in the welcoming ceremony were Commander Carlos Nunez Tellez, member of the FSLN National Directorate and president of the National Assembly; Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco; the Cabinet; and the diplomatic corps accredited to our country.

During the ceremony, Comrade Nujoma expressed pleasure at visiting the combative people of Nicaragua and stressed the solidarity of the Namibian people with the Sandinist people's revolution. He said that the victory of the Nicaraguan people is also a victory for the Namibian people, who continue their armed struggle to defeat the fascist South African regime and to achieve, sooner or later, Namibia's liberation and independence.

NEW YORK TIMES CITED ON ALLEGED CIA-CONTRA LINKS

PA252301 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Mar 87 p 3

[Article by Roberto Fonseca: "Stopping Acts of Sabotage"]

[Text] A murder can be committed by more than one person. And when this is the case, not only is the person who pulls the trigger guilty, but also the person who told the killer the time and place of the crime as well as the kind of weapon that would be used to commit it. Both are criminals.

On 18 March, THE NEW YORK TIMES made an interesting revelation: The CIA has furnished the contras intelligence information on economic and social targets to be attacked in Nicaragua. It also reported that the CIA has turned over mortars, missiles, and other weapons to the contras. In other words, in addition to supplying the corpus delicti, the CIA lays out the full plan for the contras, telling them what to attack and when and how to do it.

In the cold language of fact, the news could appear to be harmless. However, it is not. It discusses acts of sabotage against bridges, dams, and electrical, telephone, and port installations, as if these were unimportant places. There are uninhabited islands where no one lives or works. These are places where bombs, dynamite charges, or C-4 explosives can explode without causing casualties.

However, this is not the case. They know perfectly well and do not give a hoot. Skeptics who need proof can go to the Domitila Lugo neighborhood and see the wounds which Virginia Herrera, an elderly woman, received as attempts were made to blow up an electric tower.

Terrorism is an old U.S. government practice. New administrations succeed one another through presidential elections, and bombs continue to be detonated in public places. Let us look at the case of the Cuban revolution.

There were 16 bomb attacks in Cuba in 1960. Take note of this: The CIA carried out more than 60 attacks. [sentence as published] The targets included stores, hotels, and schools. Twelve of these bombings took place in Havana schools. Ten people, including 9 students and a teacher, were injured in one of these.

Now they are attempting to do the same thing in Nicaragua, with more sophisticated means. They have given the contras arms and intelligence information to carry this plan out. In addition, they have the criminal hand that will light the fuse.

A government is the responsibility not only of security bodies, but of everyone. Neighborhood residents and factory or office workers must be alert. Let us not be mistaken: Revolutionary vigilance is not only a night-time task, but a day-time one as well.

COMMENTARY ON U.S. MANEUVERS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

FL252135 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States is currently preparing for the largest display of force in Central America since it began its military maneuvers in that region 4 years ago. It was learned that no less than 5,000 Marines will be sent to Honduras to take part these maneuvers. U.S. warhsips, even carriers, will also participate. This brings the number of U.S. soldiers who will participate in the maneuvers up to 50,000.

The military exercises planned by the Pentagon will cover the whole Caribbean Area. Personnel stationed at U.S. bases in Vieques, Puerto Rico, and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, will be involved in these maneuvers that will include an evacuation drill at Guantanamo Base.

The United States has filled Honduras with military bases. Puerto Castilla, Palmerola, San Lorenzo, El Aguacate, La Ceiba, Puerto Lempira, and many others, are common names today due to the U.S. military presence in Honduras. The United States has turned this country into its main enclave for pressuring the Nicaraguan Government. The final objective for such a display of force in no mystery. Reagan wants to overthrow the Sandinist government.

In his attempt to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government, and in open disregard for U.S. laws, Reagan pays and organizes the Somozist groups, turns Honduras into a permanent military area, and, for the past 4 years, has carried out an uninterrupted plan of military maneuvers in Central America. Washington is looking for a way to unleash a war that would plunge Central America into poverty and would result in a massacre.

Many analysts agree on the fact that an invasion of Nicaragua would be quite different from the occupation of Grenada. The people who overthrew somoza are determined to defend their independence. The lesson learned in Vietnam must not be forgotten.

Further Comment on Exercises

PA271620 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 87

["Our America' commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Beginning in May, tension will rise in Central America when approximately 50,000 U.S. soldiers aboard warships and aircraft carriers will start the "Solid Shield" military exercises that the Pentagon will carry out in Honduras, the Caribbean, and on Vieques Island.

The maneuvers also include a mock evacuation of the U.S. base in Guantanamo in Cuba, an amphibious attack involving approximately 10,000 U.S. Marines in Honduras, and an attack by airborne troops, in what has been described as the largest exercise conducted by the United States in Latin America.

During the gigantic military deployment, the U.S. ground units -- more than 5,000 soldiers -- participating in the maneuver will be stationed in Honduras.

According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, this will be the largest U.S. combat force in this Central American country where anti-Nicaraguan bands operate.

The U.S. newspaper added that the "Solid Shield" exercises will coincide with an offensive that the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries plan to launch this spring.

The announcement of these new exercises follows charges made in Managua on Monday about the proximity of U.S. military aggression against Nicaragua and the explicit White House reaffirmation that it will continue to support the Somozist groups.

As usual, the U.S. Government representatives used the opportunity to make crazy statements. For example, Vernon Walters, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said at a dinner given by counterrevolutionary leaders in Miami that Cuba and Nicaragua are foreign bodies embeded in the continent and that the United States will not abandon the Nicaraguans who are fighting for freedom.

Of course, according to Walters the Nicaraguans fighting for freedom are the Somozist groups that the United States supports at any price in spite of these bands' overwhelming discredit.

Another big mouth was Richard Armitage, assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, who exhibited rash boldness when he said that the "Solid Shield" exercises are a warning to Nicaragua that the United States takes its commitments under the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty [TIAR] seriously.

Walters, in his defense of this group of bandits, looks as ridiculous as Armitage who, pretending to have lost his memory, forgot the British aggression against Argentina in 1982 when the United States disregarded the TIAR and turned its back on a Latin American country attacked by an extraregional power.

If, as suspected, the "Solid Shield" exercises imply a possible direct aggression against Nicaragua, they would also imply the beginning of the biggest U.S. defeat in the area.

IDB MEETING SHOWS LATIN AMERICA-U.S. DIFFERENCES

PA282245 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Mar 87

["Our America" commentary read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] The IDB's most recent meeting held in Miami showed that -- aside from any diplomatic consideration -- the disagreements between Latin America and the United States regarding finances are increasingly acute.

In fact, Washington was left alone in its hopes to hold absolute control of the IDB's decisions when the Latin American delegates -- with the most varied arguments -- agreed to reject the hegemonic position supported by U.S. delegate James Baker.

According to delegates from Latin America and Western Europe, the White House plan openly attacked the multilaternal character of the IDB's decisions and was openly one-sided. The U.S. arguments could not be more egotistical. According to Baker, the United States should have more veto power than it currently has [as heard] because it is one of the main contributors of IDB funds. Therefore, Washington demanded that only 35 percent of the votes should suffice to defeat any proposal brought before the credit organization.

Up to now IDB decisions have been adopted by 50 percent plus on vote. This favors Latin America which holds 54.2 percent of the votes, while the United States holds only 34.5. If the system proposed by James Baker were adopted, this would mean that the White House with one other country's vote, could have the power to defeat any IDB proposal.

The U.S. representative was, of course, not at all diplomatic. When he presented his plan he explained that if it were adopted, additional U.S. contributions to the IDB would be possible. If the contrary were true -- as it turned out -- the U.S. contribution would remain unchanged.

In Washington's opinion, the IDB's current capital of $3 billion is being employed in uselss projects. The intent is clear. With this argument Baker tried to promote the use of the IDB capital as a blackmail tool in U.S. hands because the United States only finds value in the initiatives proposed by government that are faithful to U.S. foreign policy.

The confrontation arising in the IDB did not reach its conclusion at the Miami meeting, and it is expected that it will again come up at the IMF conference to be held in Washington in April.

While for the U.S. Government the importance of IDB debates lies in the sickening search for U.S. hegemony, the creditor entity itself [words indistinct] the increasing economic impoverishment of Latin America. A report by IDB President Antonio Ortiz confirmed that the overall wealth produced by the region decreased by 7 percent in comparison with 1985. It also indicated that the continent has been a net capital exporter from early in this decade to the present.

During that period of time, the continent paid nearly $132 billion to creditors. Although James Baker (?might not like it), these are actually the problems that the Latin American representatives are increasingly concerned about. Therefore, it does not seem likely that in the future the region will passively accept formulas granting more power to the pillagers.

U.S. REPORTEDLY THREATENS TO SUSPEND FOOD AID

FL251543 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The U.S. Government has threatened to suspend food aid to several Third World countries in their failed attempt to approve a resolution condemning Cuba at the UN Human Rights Commission.

According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, pressure exerted by President Ronald Reagan's administration was so intense that Washington threatened to detain wheat supplies to underdeveloped countries if they did not support the motion.

THE NEW YORK TIMES said the lobbying efforts to approve the resolution occupied the attention of the administration's principal officials, including Reagan himself, during the 6 weeks of debate in Geneva.

KGB CHAIRMAN ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

Greeted by Raul Castro

FL280135 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Viktor M Chebrikov, member of the CPSU Politburo and chairman of the USSR committee for State Security [KGB], has arrived in our country for an official visit at the invitation of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) Central Committee and the Cuban Government.

He was received at the Jose Marti Airport by Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC. Division General Jose Abrahantes Fernandez, the interior minister [MININT], and other members of the MININT high command were also present.

Visits Monument

PA290133 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Viktor M Chebrikov, member of the CPSU Politburo and chairman of the USSR Committee for State Security, has placed a floral offering at the monument in Havana for Cuba's national hero Jose Marti.

The important Soviet official was accompanied by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, Interior Minister Jose Abrahantes Fernandez, and Aleksandr Kapto, the Soviet Union's ambassador in Havana.

Chebrikov is in Cuba on an official visit.

Meets With Castro

PA300021 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Top Cuban leader Fidel Castro met in Havana with Viktor Chebrikov, the chairman of the USSR Committee for State Security, who is making an official visit to Cuba.

During the meeting, Chebrikov, who is also a member of the CPSU Politburo, explained to Castro the restructuring process that is taking place at all levels in the USSR at present.

Both leaders analyzed the state of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States and the Latin American situation.

VIERA VISITS USSR, MEETS WITH SHEVARDNADZE

FL261806 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1826 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] It was reported today in Moscow that in March Cuban and USSR Foreign Ministry representatives held several political consultations. During these meetings, the two delegations discussed a wide range of international matters of interest for our two countries. The report adds that during the talks between Jose Viera, Cuban first vice foreign minister, and his USSR counterparts, (?Yuriy Volskiy) and Anatoliy Kovalev, they discussed measures to strengthen cooperation between the two ministries.

During his visit to the USSR, Viera was received by USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and they discussed bilateral and international matters. Viera also met with Deputy Foreign Minister Vadim Loginov, Collegium member Vladimir Petrovskiy, and other Foreign Ministry officials.

CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ MEETS WITH USSR'S ANTONOV

FL271451 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met in Havana with Aleksey K. Antonov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and permanent Soviet representative to CEMA.

The two leaders exchanged opinions on several matters related to multilateral cooperation among CEMA member countries.

GDR'S KLEIBER HOLDS TALKS WITH FIDEL CASTRO

LD271136 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 2316 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Havana, 27 Mar (ADN) -- Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers, today received Guenther Kleiber, member of the Politburo of the SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] Central Committee and deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, in Havana. Guenther Kleiber conveyed a personal message from Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council.

During their friendly discussion, topical questions relating to the domestic and foreign policy of the two countries were discussed.

Economic Protocol Signed

LD290316 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0426 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Havana, 28 Mar (ADN) -- Talks between the chairmen of the GDR-Cuba joint economic commission, Guenther Kleiber, member of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee and deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and vice president of the State Council and the Council of Ministers of Cuba, ended in Havana on Friday evening with the signing of a protocol. The document contains measures aimed at the realization of the plans agreed in the 1986-90 plan coordination. For example, GDR support for Cuban sugar and cement production has been agreed.

Guenther Kleiber and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez also signed a document on further instances of cooperation, such as the setting up of a brewery and a plant for the production of basic materials for chip board manufacture in Cuba.

Kleiber Departs 28 Mar

LD290319 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 2152 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Havana, 28 Mar (ADN) -- Guenther Kleiber, member of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee and vice chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, today ended his visit to Cuba. At Jose Marti International Airport he was bidden a cordial farewell by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and vice president of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of Cuba.

Guenther Kleiber led the GDR delegation to the sixth meeting of the CEMA Committee for Cooperation in the Mechanical Engieering Industry and to the meeting of the chairmen of the GDR-Cuba Joint Committee for Economic and Scientific-Technological Cooperation.

HUNCARY'S FRIGYES BERECZ DECORATES CASTRO

LD281142 Budapest MTI in English 2018 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Havana, March 27 (MTI) -- Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister Frigyes Berecz presented the Order of Banner Adorned with diamonds of the Hungarian People's Republic to Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers. The decoration was awarded by the Hungarian Presidential Council to Fidel Castro on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

On presenting the decoration in Havana, Frigyes Berecz greeted Fidel Castro on behalf of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party Central Committee, the Presidential Council and Government of the Hungarian People's Republic, and personally Janos Kadar, general secretary of the HSWP [Hungarian Socialist Workers Party].

"The HSWP and the Hungarian people look with respect on the life of Fidel Castro. Under the decision of the Presidential Council, the decoration is recognition of the activity which the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee has realized in the community of the socialist countries, for peace and social progress, and for deepening and developing the friendship and many-sided cooperation between our country and the Republic of Cuba," stressed the deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers.

In his reply Fidel Castro thanked the decoration. [sentence as received] He reconfirmed that he will continue to be active in the interest of strengthening peace and the cause of socialism, and developing bilateral relations.

ANAP PRESIDENT ILL; PINAR DEL RIO SECRETARY NAMED

FL271135 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] At the suggestion of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee, the Pinar del Rio Provincial PCC has agreed to relieve Comrade Orlando Lugo Fonte from his position as first secretary of the province so that he may preside over the committee organizing the Seventh Congress of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP].

This decision is the result of the ill health of Jose Ramirez Cruz, current ANAP president, who has a vocal cord illness and has been medically prescribed to absolute rest of the vocal cords for several weeks.

The Pinar del Rio PCC has also unanimously elected Comrade Fidel Ramos Perera as first secretary of the province. Ramos Perera was chief of the sugar industry department of the PCC Central Committee.

CASTRO CONGRATULATES NEW FAR RESERVE OFFICERS

FL1162149 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1919 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] The commencement exercises of the second course for reserve officers for chiefs of small units took place at the Commandate Pinares Defense Preparedness School in the country's easternmost province.

During the event, presided over by Orland Lugo Fonte, first party secretary in Pinar del Rio, the order of promotion by FAR Minister Army General Raul Castro was read, as well as a message of congratulations on behalf of the party and Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

Emilio Pimienta Veloz, president of the provincial assembly of the people's government, discussed the province's progress to prepare for the war of all the people. He said the province is also struggling to be the first to declare itself ready for defense in the second phase.

Cesar Figureroa, (?valedictorian) of the second course for reserve officers for chief of small units, read the military pledge, which stresses unlimited loyalty to the country and the revolution.

HAITI

50-60 PERCENT TURNOUT REPORTED IN 'MODEL ELECTION'

PA300023 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2257 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 29 Mar (REUTER) -- Hundreds of thousands of Haitians went to the polls today to vote on a new liberal constitution in preparation for the presidential elections slated for 7 November.

It was supposed to be an election by secret ballot, but the voters from all parts of the island refused to use the envelopes and hide behind the curtains in the polling places. Observers pointed out that the majority of the voters seemed to have voted in favor of the new constitution.

The constitution will reportedly pave the way for a new government elected in a democratic manner to replace the current National Government Council (CNG), a provisional civic-military government that took over when the Duvalier dictatorship was ousted on 7 February 1986 after having been in power for 29 years.

Rockefeller Guerre, a former opposition legislator during the government of former President Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, said that a "yes" vote will not automatically liberate Haiti from the Duvalierists. "It all depends on how the CNG respects the constitution and how close the people watch over the situation and how much pressure the people exert," he said.

Local and foreign observers estimated that between 50 to 60 percent of the nearly 3 million Haitians went to the polls today, in contrast to the 10 percent that voted last October to elect members of the Constituent Assembly.

The voters -- some of them wearing white head bands to show they were planning to vote in favor of the new constitution -- formed long lines in Port-au-Prince and in the cities in the interior.

No violence or pressure by the military security troops was reported. Robert White, a former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador who heads a missions of observers to the election, described today's election as "a model election." White said that his group will recommend to Congress that the United States not provide any military assistance to haiti until a civilian government has been democratically elected.

ST LUCIA

SLP REJECTS ELECTORAL ALLIANCE WITH PLP

FL250110 Bridgetown CANA in English 2242 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, March 24, CANA -- The St Lucia Labour Party (SLP) is again rejecting an electoral alliance with the left-leaning Progressive Labour Party (PLP).

A statement today from the SLP's secretary Hilary Modeste followed yesterday's statement by PLP leader George Odlum that his party was not opposing the SLP in areas of its greatest strength to improve its chances of winning. The PLP, a breakaway faction of the SLP, is running in only 12 of the 17 constituences.

Modeste said his party's position on the question of any association with the PLP had been well articulated even before the start of the election campaign.

The St Lucia Labour Party has stated quite categorically that it is not interested in any form of accommodation with George Odlum's party, whatever idea Mr Odlum has in terms of an accommodation is a pure unilateral decision and has nothing to do with the St Lucia party, Modeste said. He said his party assessed Odlum's statement as a reflection of his party's inability to field 17 candidates.

The SLP holds Odlum responsible for the demise of the 1979-82 Labour administration when he, as deputy political leader, became involved in a protracted leadership struggle with the then Prime Minister Allan Louisy.

Modeste dismissed speculation from Odlum that his party stood a chance of holding the balance of power position by winning a few seats.

"One can safely say that the PLP cannot win any seats in this election. That's safe prediction as the fight is clearly between the SLP and the UWP; the twelve people which the PLP are sending up are mere spoilers but are not going to interfere fundamentally with the results.

"So as far as the PLP is concerned we have written them off completely, we are fighting the UWP straight in this election."

OPPOSITION LEADER SAYS IMF PRESSURING GOVERNMENT

FL261338 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] The leader of St Lucia's main opposition party has said on Wednesday [25 March] that the International Monetary Fund is pressuring the government to raise taxes and to cut the number of state employees. The charge by St Lucia Labor Party leader Julian Hunte comes less than 2 weeks before the April 6th national elections.

It was quickly and flatly denied by Prime Minister John Compton, whose United Worker's Party has ruled St Lucia since 1982.

ELECTION TIMETABLE TO BE KEPT DESPITE FIGHTING

FL261442 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] In other news from the IDB meeting, the Surinamese delegate said yesterday his country will keep its timetable for elections despite the turmoil caused by an 8-month old guerrilla war.

Suriname's finance minister said that 6 months from March 31st, 1987, the people of Suriname will vote by referendum on a new constitution, which will be released early next week.

He expressed confidence that peace will come to his country after parliamentary elections are held.

BOUTERSE THANKS ELECTRICAL WORKERS FOR EFFORTS

FL261803 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Government leader Desi Bouterse this week visited the electricity company EBS [Suriname Energy Enterprises] to thank workers for their efforts during the energy crisis.

The supply of energy was reduced to one-half after three high-tension pylons were damaged by members of the Brunswijk Gang in January.

During their meeting, the workers of the company requested the government leaders to make foreign exchange available to the company, which needs three machines in order to meet the supply of energy independent from Suralco [Suriname Aluminum Company]

ARMY SEIZES 'LARGE' ARMS CACHE FROM REBELS

FL251803 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Last weekend, the National Army seized a large cache of arms and ammunition from the Brunswijk Gang during an offensive in the Brownsweg area. Among the cache are 40 automatic rifles and guns of French and Italian make among others, although among them are weapons which the gang had captured during previous raids on the military and police. A quantity of dynamite and ammunition was also seized by the National Army.

The Deputy Commander of the Military Police Major (Marcel Field) told our newsroom that the seizure of the arms and ammunition was a healthy blow to the gang.

The Army has launched an offensive in the east, west, and southeast of the country where gang members are concentrated. About 700 inhabitants of (Class Kreek) and surrounding areas have in the meantime returned to their villages.

JUNGLE COMMANDO KILLS 3 SOLDIERS; 19 REBELS DEAD

FL271747 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] On Wednesday [25 March] afternoon, three soldiers of the National Army were killed by snipers of the so-called Jungle Commando. The three soldiers were busy (burying?) the water supply system at Brownsweg when they were cut down by the snipers. The dead men are Army Sergeant (Eltis Fabiro Astro) and Private (Charles Hotol), and (Herbert Lafonte), all of whom are 20 years old. The last is the son of the Paramount Chief (Lafonte) of the (Matuarias).

Immediately after the attack on the National Army launched a search party for the snipers. On their way to Pokigron there was a heavy clash with members of the Brunswijk Gang. The gang members were beaten back and escaped into the bushes leaving behind dead at least 19 of their members.

The National Army didn't suffer any losses or casualties during the clash.

REFUGEE AID DIVERTED TO JUNGLE COMMANDO GANG

FL271811 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Mar

[Text] Aid from Holland to Surinamese refugees in French Guiana is falling into the hands of the terror gang, which calls itself Jungle Commando. This was disclosed by the French intelligence service, which made the discovery. The discovery shows that the person, who coordinated aid in Holland is also the same person, who advises the Burnswijk Gang in French Guiana.

The Suriname News Agency yesterday quoted the man's name as (Eddie Dopp) of the Dutch town [name indistinct] missionary society. The French authorities have (?banned) the so-called church organizations from interfering with aid, which is being channeled to Surinamese refugees.

During the past 2 weeks, the people of (Salora) have been engaged in street protests against the presence of the so-called Jungle Commando at [words indistinct] on the Marowijne River.

LI FO SJOE, TEACHERS DISCUSS REOPENING SCHOOLS

FL251858 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Education Minister Li Fo Sjoe yesterday met with the teachers union on preparations for the reopening of the 88 secondary and high schools, which have been closed for 1 month now. The unions emphasized that the safety of students and teachers must be guaranteed for the normal resumption of education. The parent's association of the Miranda College wants to talk with the education minister before next Tuesday. The talks will center on the reopening of the schools in a responsible manner.

Also yesterday, an initiative group called Normalized Education met with Deputy Prime Minister Van Amson. Last week this group presented its position to the government in which it requested the normalization of education in the shortest possible time.